

the clerk of the Perry County Municipal Court, and to provide for the election for the Perry County Municipal Court of one full-time judge in 2017. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

- HB 581** **LLC REGULATIONS (Dever, J., Reineke, B.)** To permit and regulate managers, members, and interests of series limited liability companies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 139** **POST-CONVICTION RELIEF (Seitz, B., Williams, S.)** To require the clerk of a common pleas court to retain a copy of the original trial file when a death penalty is imposed, to specify that there is no page limit on petitions for postconviction relief in death penalty cases or in appeals of denials of such relief, to modify the time for filing an amended postconviction relief petition in death penalty cases, to provide for depositions and subpoenas during discovery in postconviction relief proceedings in death penalty cases, and to require a judge hearing a postconviction relief proceeding in a death penalty case to state specifically in the findings of fact and conclusions of law why each claim was either denied or granted. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 106** **PUBLIC INDECENCY (Schaffer, T.)** To require an offender who knowingly commits the offense of public indecency under certain circumstances involving conduct likely to be viewed by minors to register as a Tier I sex offender/child-victim offender. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 283** **DNA TESTING (Fedor, T.)** To require DNA testing for misdemeanor convictions of voyeurism, public indecency, procuring, soliciting, loitering to engage in soliciting, and prostitution. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.
- SB 30** **FAMILY STABILITY (Tavares, C.)** To create the Ohio Family Stability Commission. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 286** **MARRIAGE (Vitale, N.)** To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (6th Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 458** **FOSTER CARE (Boyce, K., Rezabek, J.)** To provide foster care maintenance payments for children in the care of a kinship caregiver without requiring the caregiver to be certified to provide foster care and to require, rather than permit, the creation of the statewide program of kinship care navigators. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 308** **CHILD SUPPORT (Coley, B.)** To amend the child support laws. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 618 RECORD EXPUNGEMENT (Schuring, K., Reece, A.) To provide for the expungement of official records related to the apprehension, arrest, criminal charging, or trial of a person based on mistaken identity. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, will testify on the revised English language arts and math learning standards pursuant to 3301.079 (J).

HB 410 TRUANCY (Rezabek, J., Hayes, B.) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 89 MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (DeVitis, T.) Regarding the Medicaid School Program. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 126 OPEN ENROLLMENT (Sawyer, T.) To terminate interdistrict open enrollment on that date with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly's examination of the study's findings. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Wednesday, November 30

House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Dovilla, M., 466-4895), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB 525 911 CALLS (Johnson, G.) To require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit or code. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 589 UTILITY RESELLING (Duffey, M.) To permit the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing residential utility reselling. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 72 PORT AUTHORITIES (Conditt, M.) To authorize port authorities to create energy special improvement districts for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects and to alter the law governing such districts that are governed by a nonprofit corporation. (5th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB 554 RENEWABLE ENERGY (Amstutz, R.) To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency savings, and peak demand reduction and to revise provisions governing which customers can opt out of related programs. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Health & Human Services (Committee Record) (Chr. Jones, S., 466-9737), North Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- Agenda to be announced
Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 355 LOAN ACT (Peterson, B.) To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- Ferzan Ahmed, State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors; Andrew Bainbridge, JD, Ski Tramway Board; Kristine Burdick and Rowland Giller, III, Ohio Real Estate Commission; James Gasior and Michael Peterson, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission; Stephanie Green, Janet Orosz and Richard Zaleski, Ohio Fair Plan Underwriting Association Board of Governors; W. Craig Zimpher, State Employment Relations Board; Bill Dingus, Chris Kershner and Christopher Powell, Transportation Review

Advisory Council; J. Richard Lumpe, State Employment Relations Board; Ross McGregor, State Personnel Board of Review; Scott Murray, Board of Motor Vehicle Repair; Thomas Needles, Motor Vehicle Dealers Board; Gary Siciliano, Motor Vehicle Salvage Dealers Licensing Board and George Snyder, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services

HB 341 **TRANSPORTATION LAWS (Young, R., Sweeney, M.)** To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (2nd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB 532 **REAL ESTATE SALES (Smith, R.)** Relating to real estate brokers and salespersons. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 345 **LICENSE PLATE (Jones, S.)** To create the Conquer Childhood Cancer license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 359 **LICENSE PLATE (Uecker, J.)** To create the Down Syndrome Awareness license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 361 **LICENSE PLATE (Thomas, C.)** To create the "Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness" license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 363 **LICENCE PLATE (Oelslager, S.)** To create the "Buckeye Corvette" license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 436 **DUI SENTENCES (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.)** To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 455 **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.)** To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Senate Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Larry Mincks, Sr. and Christopher Viland, Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission

HB 172 **CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.)** To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 237 **DRUG VOLUME (LaRose, F.)** To provide that five milligrams or more of fentanyl or an amount equal to or exceeding one gram of a compound, mixture, preparation, or

substance that contains any amount of fentanyl and that is not in a final dosage form manufactured by an authorized manufacturer constitutes a bulk amount for purposes of the laws governing drug offenses, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 162 **DEATH SENTENCES** (Seitz, B., Williams, S.) To provide that a person convicted of aggravated murder who shows that the person had a serious mental illness at the time of committing the offense cannot be sentenced to death for the offense and to provide a mechanism for resentencing to a life sentence a person previously sentenced to death who proves that the person had a serious mental illness at the time of committing the offense. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 195 **SEXUAL CONDUCT** (Hughes, J., Hottinger, J.) To prohibit a person from engaging in sexual conduct with an animal and related acts, to provide for the seizure and impoundment of an animal that is the subject of a violation, and to authorize a sentencing court to require an offender to undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 265 **CASINO OPERATORS** (Seitz, B.) To specify that the criminal penalty related to casino operators and employees participating in casino gaming applies at their casino facility or an affiliated casino facility. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 405 **IMPORTUNING** (Schaffer, T., Smith, K.) To amend the penalties for the offense of importuning. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 185 **ARSON** (Koehler, K.) To eliminate lack of the property owner's consent as an element of arson when the property is abandoned real property and to make the consent of the owner of abandoned real property an affirmative defense. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 521 **PAROLE ELIGIBILITY** (Manning, N.) To provide special parole eligibility dates for persons with an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense committed when the person was less than 18 years of age, to require the Parole Board to consider specified mitigating factors in those cases, and to require notice to the Ohio Public Defender and prosecuting attorney prior to the parole consideration hearing. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 439 **VOYEURISM** (Anielski, M.) To include an impaired person as a victim of voyeurism and to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 316 **SEXUAL IMPOSITION** (Hughes, J.) To increase the penalty for sexual imposition when the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of sexual imposition or other specified sex offenses. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

~~Canceled: House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 4:30 p.m.~~

- If needed

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

- SB 227** ATTORNEY GENERAL (Bacon, K.) To make various changes to the laws governing the duties and functions of the Attorney General. (2nd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendment & vote)
- HB 577** LAME DUCK SESSIONS (Boose, T.) To prohibit the General Assembly from holding sessions after the general election in an even-numbered year. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HJR 7** BANKING FUNCTIONS (Sheehy, M., Ramos, D.) To urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking function that was in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 383** TRAIN CREWS (Sheehy, M., Lepore-Hagan, M.) To support the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed rule requiring trains operated in the United State to have at least a two-person crew. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 331** SAFETY BELTS (Phillips, D.) To require all passengers in automobiles to wear safety belts. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 344** CORPORATE BOARDS (Johnson, G., Boggs, K.) To urge equitable and diverse gender representation on the corporate boards of directors of companies based in Ohio. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 494** FIREARMS (Antonio, N., Boyd, J.) To require a court that issues a protection order to determine if the respondent is prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm, to require a court to determine whether an offender who has been convicted of specified offenses is prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm, and to require a respondent or offender who the court determines is prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm to transfer all firearms in the person's possession to a law enforcement agency or a federally licensed firearms dealer. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 324** DAY DESIGNATION (Ramos, D.) To declare November 23rd as Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 381** NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Ramos, D., Howse, S.) To require the Director of Job and Family Services to request a federal waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 332** REPLICIA VEHICLE TITLES (Patterson, J.) To provide that when a certificate of title is issued for a motor vehicle, the owner may request that the certificate indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica vehicle. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 330** EQUAL PAY CERTIFICATE (Howse, S., Clyde, K.) To require a contractor or person submitting a bid or other proposal for a state contract or a business entity applying for a grant or other economic incentive from a state agency to obtain an equal pay certificate, to require state agencies and political subdivisions to establish a job evaluation system to identify and eliminate sex-based wage disparities among classes of employees, and to prohibit an employer from retaliating against an employee who discusses the employee's salary or wage rate with another employee. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 337 DAY DESIGNATION (Clyde, K.) To designate the fourth Tuesday of September as Ohio Voter Registration Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HR 56 EQUAL PAY DAY (Fedor, T.) To recognize April 14, 2015, as Equal Pay Day to encourage public awareness of the gender wage gap. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 329 DAY DESIGNATION (Howse, S., Boyd, J.) To designate February 23 as Louis Stokes Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 519 LSC DUTIES (Howse, S.) To require the Director of the Legislative Service Commission to prepare a human impact statement concerning a bill or resolution that proposes to amend the law governing criminal justice. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR 23 DAY DESIGNATION (Howse, S.) To designate June 15, 2015, as Karamu House Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), South Hearing Rm., 4:30 p.m.

SB 271 POLICE ANIMALS (Gentile, L.) To authorize a law enforcement officer to purchase a police dog or horse for fair market value when the officer retires in good standing from a law enforcement agency and certain conditions are met, and to declare an emergency. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Thursday, December 1

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

SB 355 LOAN ACT (Peterson, B.) To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

HB 341 TRANSPORTATION LAWS (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (3rd Hearing-Proponent & interested party-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 455 BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 202 FRONT LICENSE PLATE (Thomas, C.) To specify that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle that is required to display a license plate on the front and rear of the vehicle is a secondary traffic offense, to establish a maximum fine of \$25 for such an offense, to name this act the "DuBose Was A Beacon Act," and to amend the version of section 4503.21 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2017, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 436** **DUI SENTENCES** (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.) To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 236** **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS** (Landis, A., Blessing, L.) To require professional engineers to complete continuing professional development hours in professional ethics or rules relevant to engineering or surveying practices. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 249** **ROOFING CONTRACTORS** (Patton, T.) To require commercial roofing contractors to have a license. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)
- House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.
- SB 235** **PROPERTY TAXES** (Beagle, B., Coley, B.) To exempt from property tax the increased value of property on which industrial or commercial development is planned until the completion of new commercial or industrial facilities at the property. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)
- SB 331** **PET STORES** (Peterson, B.) To regulate the sale of dogs from pet stores and dog retailers and to require the Director of Agriculture to license pet stores. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- SB 319** **DRUG REGULATIONS** (Eklund, J.) To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, and the provision of addiction services. (2nd Hearing-Possible substitute)
- SB 332** **INFANT MORTALITY** (Jones, S., Tavares, C.) To provide for the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission on Infant Mortality and to authorize pharmacists to administer by injection certain prescribed drugs. (2nd Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11 a.m.

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Tuesday, December 6

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.


Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Volume #85, Report #225 -- Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Senate Hears Mixed Review Of Energy Freeze Bill; Early December Committee Vote Eyed

The state's top consumer utility advocate told a Senate panel Tuesday the renewable energy and energy efficiency benchmarks in a Senate bill are "reasonable."

But Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston said in testimony before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee that he still has plenty of concerns with the proposal (SB 320).

Mr. Weston's was one of a trio of witnesses on both sides of the issue to appear before the committee during the bill's third hearing.

Questioned by Chairman Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), Mr. Weston said that a 12.5% renewable energy benchmark for 2029 and beyond was reasonable in his view. As for the 17% benchmark for energy efficiency - which was reduced from the bill's earlier 22% - Mr. Weston said that number is on the lower end of "something I could accept as reasonable."

Sen. Balderson said in an interview he has no intention of holding a vote on the issue next week considering the holiday and the short notice interested parties received about Tuesday's hearing.

"We'll have some more hearings," Sen. Balderson said. "We want to give everyone adequate time. We'd like to have at least something by the first of December that we can vote on."

Several amendments have been drafted behind the scenes, although it's unclear if and when they'll be introduced for consideration. Sponsor Sen. Bill Seitz said he is unsure whether he will introduce any of his prepared amendments next week.

"I think there are a couple things we could tweak along the way, but, yes, I do feel good about it," Sen. Balderson said of the status of the bill. "And I know one amendment might be the mercantile opt out. It's in there right now (to start) in 2019, but 2017 was talked about last week in committee."

Outlining his concerns with the bill, Mr. Weston urged the committee to: preclude utilities from charging consumers for shared savings that are not a direct result of utility programs or that are unrelated to electricity sales; add language to protect consumers from bearing any cost associated with the mercantile opt-out program, and; prohibit consideration of renewables and energy efficiency in cases other than those intended for implementing the energy standards.

Responding to a question from Sen. Seitz, Mr. Weston floated the idea of a 3% cost cap for consumers. He also argued for requiring utilities to use competitive bidding when retaining providers or vendors when implementing their energy efficiency programs.

He further advised against any attempts to add language permitting electricity rate hikes if a utility's financial integrity is at risk.

"If such a change in the law is to be considered by the legislature, it should be done in a standalone bill with a full public hearing process and not rushed in this limited post-election session," Mr. Weston said.

Brakey Energy President Matt Brakey was the only proponent to testify during this week's hearing. He said the company fully supports the mercantile customer opt-out and would even urge the provision to be enacted sooner.

The bill as written would expand opt-out eligibility to businesses consuming more than 700,000 kilowatt hours per year - a move opponents say is premature considering the existing opt-out doesn't begin until 2017. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 17, 2016)

Even if the opt-out timeline isn't advanced, Mr. Brakey said, lawmakers should act fast in reaching a resolution before the ongoing freeze on energy standards expires at year's end.

"Because of the cycle time of the electric distribution utilities, delaying commonsense reforms will require the utilities to launch another expensive, multi-year installment toward compliance that will be passed onto Ohio's residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional customers," he said. "This is an outcome Ohioans cannot afford."

Environmental Law and Policy Center Senior Attorney Rob Kelter said the group opposes the bill's removal of compliance mechanisms for the first three years.

Opponents argue such language waters down the state's approach to renewables while proponents say it buys the state more time pending the legal resolution of the Clean Power Plan.

"The utilities recover both their costs and lost revenues related to energy efficiency so they are held harmless. On top of that they share the savings they generate for customers through shared savings mechanisms that all the utilities have achieved," Mr. Kelter said. "Some utilities have earned bonuses as high as \$20 million per year from running the programs. Making the standards voluntary sends the wrong signal regarding the importance of the standards and the need to meet the targets."

Mr. Kelter said the group also opposes both the lowering of the energy efficiency benchmark to 17% and the potential expansion of the mercantile opt-out program.

"Somehow, listening to the testimony and comments from proponents, one would think

Ohio is about to become California," Mr. Kelter said. "We are only looking for a very reasonable and doable level of efficiency and renewables that will benefit all Ohioans through both cleaner air and lower bills."

Alan Rosenfield submitted written opponent testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, saying that the bill "continues bad policy by refusing to require a reasonable percentage of energy come from renewable sources."

"We reject the idea that SB320 lifts the two-year freeze imposed on renewable energy requirements," he wrote. "We urge that the current language of O.R.C. 4928-64 be retained and oppose any changes in that section that are included in SB320."

Senate Panel Takes Up Ignition Interlock Device Measure

First-time OVI offenders could have the opportunity to be granted unlimited driving privileges, with a catch, under a House bill reviewed in the Senate Tuesday.

The legislation (HB 388) sponsored by Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) would allow first-time offenders to petition the court for unlimited driving privileges with an Ignition Interlock Device during the offender's driver's license suspension.

"Our current laws contain an ineffective system of limited driving privileges. The offender first has a period of 15 days where he or she cannot drive at all. Then he or she can obtain limited driving privileges from the judge and may be granted access to any occupational, educational, vocational, or medical destinations as well as commercial licensing exams and court mandated appearances during certain times of the day," he told members of the Senate Insurance Committee Tuesday.

"Second-time offenders are required to use a certified Ignition Interlock Device (IID) if restricted driving has been permitted. Second time offenders are also required to employ yellow license plates on their vehicles. The second offense provisions all too often give rise to plea bargains to reduce the overall punishment."

The legislation, dubbed "Annie's Law," also lengthens the first-time minimum suspension from six months to 12 months. However, that suspension can be cut in half if a court grants a request to use an IID.

In addition, the measure would also require a first-time offender to obtain a restricted license indicating the use of an IID is required.

"It is important to note that this language is permissive: the offender is not required to request the use of the device, nor is the judge required to allow the use of the device. The IID petition can only be granted at the time of conviction, not at the time of the arraignment. There is no change to current law for the time from arrest to conviction," Rep. Scherer said.

Yet another provision of the bill would extend the look-back period for OVI offenses from six to 10 years.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) questioned the rationale behind that provision.

Rep. Scherer said it was requested by municipal court judges who believe the six-year window is not long enough.

In researching the legislation, Rep. Scherer told the panel that he voluntarily installed an IID in his own vehicle and sought to allay some of the misconceptions about the device, including the belief that an impaired driver could have a child blow into it to allow a vehicle to be started.

"It's not that simple to use," he said. "It does require a velocity of air going through the device, and a sustained velocity."

Chairman Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) asked if the devices require a driver to do anything while operating a vehicle.

Rep. Scherer said that some do require a "rolling retest," which he was initially opposed to until he learned that 28 states with similar laws also mandate continued testing after the initial one to allow the vehicle to start.

"It is not a significant burden," he said. "You can always pull over to the side of the road to do it. I found that once I got used to it, I didn't need to pull over to do it."

The bill is named after Annie Rooney, who was killed by a drunken driver in 2013.

"The woman who hit Annie that fateful day had at least three misdemeanor charges of operating a vehicle while impaired filed against her. Since her death, Annie's family has worked with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and others in their cause to reduce the number of casualties to this horrible tragedy that occurs far too often," Rep. Scherer said.

The bill has been in the works for three years and currently has no known opposition, Rep. Scherer told the panel.

The measure cleared the House in an 84-5 vote in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 18, 2016)

Proponents Urge Senate Support For Ohio EPA Updates

More than a dozen proponents testified or submitted written testimony to the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Tuesday on the governor's second OEPA-themed mid-biennium review bill.

During the bill's (SB 333) second hearing before the committee, lawmakers asked no questions as witnesses touted what they perceive as the bill's merits.

By and large, the group said the bill would install much-needed oversight over construction and demolition debris processing plants, refocus the mission of the Lake Erie Commission, and permit the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's director to waive, transfer or revoke a 401 water quality certification. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 18, 2016)

Ohio Environmental Council Deputy Director Jack Shaner thanked the OEPA for participating in stakeholder meetings to gather feedback, saying the group is "confident that constructive compromise amendments will emerge."

That's because the group, which supports the bill, still has two areas of concern, Mr. Shaner said.

One provision worth revisiting, he said, is language that makes substantive changes to the makeup, authority and duties of the Lake Erie Commission. The bill's intent is to refocus the commission on helping the state meet its obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

"It remains unclear how and to what extent the commission will ensure the...implementation of federal, state and local policies, programs and issues," Mr. Shaner said, recommending instead the language be changed so the commission can ensure coordination of "the funding, implementation, and monitoring" of those areas.

The group also requested a change in language enabling the OEPA director to grant 401 waivers, which proponents say will speed up projects already approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

OEC argues the waiver should be considered a final appealable order and should not be issued within 90 days of the agency's receipt of a complete application to allow actual agency review. Further, the group said the director should be required to include written justification for granting the waiver.

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Executive Director Diane Bickett testified the bill would address "serious problems" stemming from unregulated C&DD processing facilities in the county. She said such sites accumulate waste, becoming eyesores and ultimately shifting the burden of cleanup onto taxpayers.

"Most of the debris being accepted at this and other sham recycling facilities is debris resulting from the demolition of vacant homes," she said. "Demolition contractors cut costs by taking the debris to these sham recycling sites because they undercut the disposal fees that legitimate recyclers and landfills must charge in order to operate properly."

Ohio Environmental Health Association President Chad Brown said the group has spent a decade trying to address issues within the C&DD industry, but has made little progress without legislative action.

"There have been cases in all regions of the state where materials have been stockpiled without being processed properly, which has resulted in public nuisance situations," Mr. Brown said. "SB333 aims to address these nuisance conditions and provide the proper authority to OEPA and local health departments to address these issues."

Other witnesses praised different facets of the bill. Ohio Chamber of Commerce Director of Energy and Environmental Policy Zachary Frymier said the bill would improve business efficiency and surface water quality by strengthening the Certified Water Quality Professional Program.

Agreeing the bill would allow the state to address "bad actors" in the C&DD industry, he also praised the 401 waiver provision.

Ohio Rural Water Association Executive Director Kevin Strang singled out the bill's requirement that private water systems maintain an asset management plan. He said his association regularly assists systems with few resources that have overlooked or delayed maintenance and inventory planning.

"We have most recently provided extensive services to the villages of Botkins in Shelby County, Gratis in Preble County, and Spring Valley in Green County," he said. "In these three systems alone we project potential long term savings in excess of \$500,000 by reducing the need for premature repairs and replacement of system equipment."

Others testifying in support of the measure included Geoff Guss of Coschoton's McWane Ductile, professional engineer Alan Olsen, Great Lakes RCAP Director Debbie Martin, Hecla Water Association Inc. General Manager Tony Howard, and Materials Management Advisory Council Chairman Michael Dineen.

Submitting written proponent testimony were Port of Cleveland Vice President of External Affairs Jade Davis, Cuyahoga County Health Commissioner Terry Allan, Aqua Ohio Inc. and Aqua Ohio Wastewater Inc. President Ed Kolodziej, CSX Resident Vice President Rusty Orben, and a pair of Ohio residents.

Committee Chair Raises Concerns About Insurance Bill

The leader of a Senate committee on Tuesday questioned the efficacy of a measure designed to prevent certain uninsured drivers from collecting non-compensatory damages as a result of a traffic accident.

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark), chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, said a recent study found that the measure (HB 279) would decrease the rate of uninsured drivers on Ohio's roadways by just 1.6%.

"Candidly, 1.6% is probably certainly inside the margin of error," he said.

Sponsoring Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) said the legislation is about fairness. He likened the circumstances it addresses to a group that buys lottery tickets and hits a jackpot, then someone who did not contribute to the purchase asking for a share of the winnings.

"If everybody participates then we are protecting everybody," he said.

Sen. Hottinger also raised concerns about a letter from the Ohio Judicial Conference sent to Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton), a co-sponsor of the bill, that suggested the measure could violate both the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the Ohio Constitution.

But Rep. Henne said just one state's high court found a similar measure to be unconstitutional.

Under the bill, those who have a previous conviction of driving without insurance in the past seven years would be barred from seeking non-compensatory damages in the event of a traffic accident.

"They can still collect damages for their damaged property, medical bills, and loss of wages," Rep. Henne said.

Uninsured motorists would still be able to sue for non-economic damages in what Rep. Henne described as egregious situations, including crashes involving a four- or six-point offense, texting while driving and wrongful death. Drivers under the age of 18 will also be exempted from the law.

An estimated 15% of Ohio drivers are uninsured, above the national average of 13%, according to Rep. Henne.

The number of crashes involving uninsured drivers increased from 50,151 in 2011 to 95,000 in 2015, he said.

"Drivers who repeatedly choose not to participate in a system that is designed to protect all drivers, by failing to purchase the required minimum limits of liability protection, will no longer receive the full benefits of this system," he said. "If they are injured by another driver, HB279 affords the uninsured driver more than the amount of protection they offer their victims."

Sen. Hottinger was not alone in questioning the measure. Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said she supports the goal behind the bill, but does not believe it will accomplish "a great deal."

"I would like to see a bill where we come forth with some method by which we use some other stick," she said.

Adding that there are many Ohioans who cannot afford liability insurance and lack access to public transportation, the Democrat said, "We need something else. We need to look at the possibility that there may be extenuating circumstances."

Rep. Henne replied by saying that if someone does not have the financial means to obtain liability insurance, they don't have the financial means to drive a vehicle.

"Should we allow people to run through red lights if they are late for work?" he asked.

The legislation passed the House in May on a largely party-line vote of 62-35, with Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) voting with the Democrats on opposition. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 25, 2016)

Medical Board Closes Investigation Into Dayton Abortion Clinic

Anti-abortion groups on Tuesday called for further government action against a Dayton-area clinic following the State Medical Board of Ohio's closure of a case involving the facility.

Ohio Right to Life and Dayton Right to Life urged the board to either disclose the investigative record or reopen the probe into Women's Med Center in Kettering regarding a June incident in which a patient received an abortion despite being unable to consent due to a drug overdose.

Dayton Right to Life filed complaints with the board earlier this year after an incident report from the Ohio Department of Health. The patient had taken a number of drugs the day of the scheduled abortion and was unable to walk on her own or keep her eyes open, according to the report. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2016)

Paul Coudron, executive director of Dayton Right to Life, said he received a notice from the Medical Board that the cases against the doctors at the facility had been closed with no action taken.

"The women of Dayton deserve to know why no action, not even a reprimand, has been taken by this institution," he said at a Columbus news conference.

Mr. Coudron and Devin Scribner, executive director of Ohio Right to Life, said they want the board either to release the record of their investigation or to reopen the case.

"Today we're here to call for action from the State Medical Board," Mr. Scribner said. "Case closed is not good enough for us."

Katherine Franklin, spokeswoman for Ohio Right to Life, said the issue is one of informed consent and should be of concern for Ohioans regardless of their attitudes toward abortion.

"This is much more a question of ethics in medicine more than it is politics," she said. "Pro-choice and pro-life advocates should be demanding action on this case, because it gets to the heart of a woman's right to say no and control her own bodily autonomy."

Michael Gonidakis, the president of Ohio Right to Life, serves as president of the State Medical Board but said he would recuse himself in the case. The investigation was closed by board staff and never required a hearing before the board.

Tessie Pollock, a spokeswoman for the board, said the details of complaints and investigations are confidential.

"When we receive complaints about informed consent, we investigate fully, as we do with all complaints against licensees," she said in an email. "Informed consent is an essential part of a physician's standard of care; failure to obtain informed consent is a failure to meet the minimal standard of care required of Ohio licensed physicians."

Investigative staff at the board have access to medical records, interviews with providers, patients, complainants and experts, and can subpoena documents, she said.

Kellie Copeland, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, said the case has been reviewed and closed.

"When this case opened, the Ohio Department of Health investigated and asked the provider to rewrite their policy, which they did," she said in a statement. "Both the health department and the State Medical Board have looked into this case, and neither have decided additional action is necessary. Case closed."

"Women in Ohio need access to safe and legal abortion care from providers like Women's Med Center," she added. "They don't need political interference from Ohio Right to Life."

Buckeye Institute Touts Charity Care; OSMA Launches Opioid Campaign; Innovation Ohio Eyes Food Insecurity

The state could encourage more affordable health care by incentivizing doctors to perform charity care, according to a policy brief by the Buckeye Institute.

Bureaucratic hurdles in Medicaid create a situation in which doctors often refuse new patients, and limitations on voluntary charity care would help doctors and nurses reach more people, wrote Greg Lawson, Statehouse liaison for the Buckeye Institute.

The policy brief encouraged lawmakers to allow health care professionals to receive continuing education credits in exchange for providing charity care to underserved Ohioans. Other states, such as Florida, allow medical professionals to earn credit for up to a certain number of hours or a certain percentage of credit per renewal period. Bills have been introduced (HB 488 and SB 292) to deal with these issues.

"Healthcare providers must maintain a requisite number of CE credits to practice in Ohio, and allowing some of those credits to be earned through charity care will increase the supply of quality treatment available to the poor," Mr. Lawson wrote.

Other possible changes that would improve access to charity care include broadening immunity provisions that protect charity care providers from malpractice lawsuits, the brief said, and relaxing regulatory requirements on licensed nurses. A bill (HB 216) to increase the autonomy of advanced practice registered nurses has cleared the House and is currently before a Senate committee.

"These are examples of the kind of reforms that could be pursued as policymakers devise ways to extend access to more affordable healthcare to our neediest patients and communities," Mr. Lawson wrote.

OSMA Opioid Campaign: The Ohio State Medical Association has launched a campaign aimed at fighting the problem of misuse and abuse of opioid painkillers.

The campaign, called BeSmart, includes posters and prescription pads for doctors and prescribers to use that raise awareness of information about the potentially addictive and dangerous drugs.

The materials include links and numbers for drug-related resources and advice for people who are prescribed opioids, people who are prescribed non-opioid treatments, and for talking to children about drug abuse.

Food Insecurity Report: An investment of \$16 million in the Ohio State Extension nutrition education programs could lift 24,000 Ohioans out of food insecurity, according to a report from the Innovation Ohio Education Fund.

The report looked at a number of potential policy solutions for dealing with the state's high rate of food insecurity, including improving the nutrition education programs, expanding the number of counties with SNAP eligibility waivers, reforming the state earned income tax credit and investing in job creation programs.

It found the education funding to be highly effective, while grading it a medium for efficiency and political feasibility.

"Based on the above analysis, I recommend that the state of Ohio expand its nutrition education program and expand the number of counties with SNAP eligibility waivers," author Rob Moore wrote. "EITC reforms and job programs, while potentially valuable for other reasons, are unlikely to significantly decrease food insecurity in the state without large, expensive investments."

"A state-funded SNAP-Ed program funded at \$16 million (a modest 0.6% increase in higher education spending for Ohio and one tenth the size of an EITC expansion) would lead to a projected reduction in food insecurity that would lift 24,000 Ohioans out of food insecurity," he added.

Farmers Union Prices Thanksgiving Dinner; AG Warns On Holiday Shopping Scams; DSW Sales Up

Farmers will see less than 20% of consumer dollars spent on popular holiday menu items this year, according to an annual report.

The Thanksgiving edition of the National Farmers Union Farmer's Share publication found that farmers receive 19.4 cents of every food dollar spent on 15 common holiday foods. Most of the cost of traditional fare comes from marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing.

Throughout the year, research has found farmers take in a little more than 17 cents for every food dollar consumers spend, NFU said.

"It's important to understand the difference between the price consumers pay for food at the grocery store or restaurant and the commodity prices farmers are paid for their products, NFU President Roger Johnson said in a statement.

"Just recently, food costs started to drop, but farm and ranch families have been plagued by low commodity prices for nearly three years," he said. "Comparatively, the costs associated with the rest of the supply chain have a more pronounced effect on consumers' food prices."

Turkey growers receive about 89 cents per pound retailing at \$1.59, while wheat farmers averaged four cents on a dozen dinner rolls that retail for \$3.29 and dairy producers received \$1.44 for the average \$4.49 gallon of fat free milk, the report shows.

Holiday Shopping: The Better Business Bureau and Attorney General Mike DeWine are working to inform consumers about how to keep themselves and their wallets safe as the holiday shopping season officially kicks off this week.

The AG's office released a list of tips for the estimated 137.4 million shoppers expected to take to stores over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

It includes recommendations to make plans before getting to stores, diligently reading fine print in ads and on "free" offers, and monitor bank accounts for any fraudulent charges.

"We encourage consumers to take some simple steps to protect themselves," Attorney General DeWine said. "Whether they're shopping online or in stores, we encourage people to take their time, understand the details, and ask for help if they need it. Awareness can go a long way in preventing problems."

BBB, meanwhile, has launched a new #AdTruth campaign to highlight common schemes companies use to lure in business and inform shoppers about how to truly find the best deals.

As more purchasing moves to the internet, BBB is also providing information about how to determine if a website or advertising emails are credible.

DSW: Third-quarter sales increased 4.7% to \$697 million compared to the same period last year, when sales decreased 2%, the company reported.

The Columbus-based footwear and accessories retailer also reported net income of \$39 million, or \$0.47 per diluted share. The total includes pre-tax charges from the acquisition of Ebuys, which is another footwear retailer.

"This quarter reflects the first step in our return to year-over-year earnings growth," CEO Roger Rawlins said "After four consecutive declines, we reported a 16% increase in Adjusted Earnings Per Share this quarter."

"Tighter inventory management drove improvements in gross margin which, combined with effective expense management, resulted in an increase in net income," he continued. "We've reduced clearance markdowns and we are positioned to generate more profitable sales in the holiday season."

Governor's Appointment

Northeast Ohio Medical University Board of Trustees: E. Douglas Beach of Northfield (Summit Co.) for a term beginning Nov. 22 and ending Sept. 21, 2024.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-037. Requested by Athens County Prosecuting Attorney Keller J. Blackburn.
SYLLABUS:

1. A secret service officer appointed pursuant to R.C. 309.07 may serve as a member of a board of township trustees, provided that in his capacity as a township trustee he refrains from participating in any discussions, deliberations, negotiations, or votes under R.C. 309.09(B) to retain legal counsel other than the prosecuting attorney to advise or represent the township, and in his capacity as a secret service officer he shall not be permitted or required to conduct any criminal investigatory activities or functions in connection with criminal charges that may be brought by the prosecuting attorney or other prosecuting authority against officers or employees of the township.
2. A legal secretary appointed pursuant to R.C. 309.06 may serve as a member of a board of township trustees, provided that in her capacity as a township trustee she refrains from participating in any discussions, deliberations, negotiations, or votes under R.C. 309.09(B) to retain legal counsel other than the prosecuting attorney to advise or represent the township.

Supplemental Agency Calendar **Tuesday, November 29**

Power Siting Board, Rm. 11B, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30

Aerospace & Aviation Technology Committee, Rm. 122, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, November 28

Auditor of State Dave Yost media availability on open enrollment, Auditor of State Ceremonial Office, Statehouse, Columbus, 2 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, November 23

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

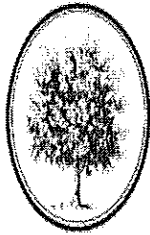
© 2016, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 2:15 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: What the heck is #GivingTuesday? And what is that pound sign thing anyway?



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

And why is every charity I've ever heard of emailing asking for money today when I'm still savoring leftover turkey sandwiches along with that sweetest Ohio State double overtime victory?

At The Buckeye Institute, we are here to answer questions, educate, and inspire...

Back in 2012, some entrepreneurial folks at the 92nd Street Y, a community and cultural center in New York, realized that shopping events such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday were heavily focused on the materialism fueling the less desirable parts of our culture that were becoming obsessed with taking "selfies" and less concerned with helping others.

The idea was that kicking off this festive holiday season of giving with a single and branded day entitled "Giving Tuesday" following the shopping rush would awaken our better angels amidst the hubbub of the end of the year.

By the way, for those of you (like me) who don't regularly use social media, the pound sign is known as a hashtag. Hashtags are a good way to organize pithy topics into categories. However, I like to occasionally drop them into ordinary conversations as well. So the other day when my significant other was not stepping up to finish the necessary chores to get ready for Thanksgiving company, I simply said, "I relish when the

house is totally clean and full of music and crackling firewood
HASHTAG please get to work helping get these things done my love."

The good news is that we have become a more generous society. Did I mention that giving generously also feels really good?

A few years ago, a NY Times op-ed (I know, I know, that's not the most reliable source of news these days.... but the author had a fair point about why giving is actually the nicest thing we can do for ourselves) cited research that found that when study participants were told to think about giving money to charity, the parts of the brain associated with eating warm apple pie and having sex were engaged. Whoa, dang, what?! So I guess you could say financially sacrificing for a worthwhile cause is both delicious and exciting.

Who doesn't want to get those nice endorphins going?

Also, major studies have proven that givers are happier in their lives than non-givers.

The happiness difference between givers and non-givers is not due to differences in personal characteristics, income or religion. Imagine two people who are identical in terms of income, faith, age, education, politics, gender, and family circumstances, but one is a donor and volunteers regularly and the other doesn't. The giver will be, on average, 11 percentage points more likely to say he or she is fulfilled.

Where can you sign up for these intangible benefits?

I am so glad you asked.

As luck would have it, The Buckeye Institute is a lean mean public policy operation that spends its resources wisely and effectively to advance the cause of freedom and prosperity in the states.

And we simply (and literally) would not exist without your partnership.

We are a public charity that has to raise funds every day to continue fighting the good fight. We are participating in #GivingTuesday to bring awareness of our work and the necessity for donations to advance our cause.

As you may know, The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, we rely on the generous financial contributions of those who share our commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding. In fact, we try to get the government out of charities, out of our lives, families, and businesses. You did build those--and did so pretty well it turns out. #KindlyKeepYourBigGovernmentOutOfMyWayThankYou

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, and means more to us than warm apple pie or sex any time of year. Well, on second thought, that might be hyperbole. We really love pie too. Please consider sending a gift today or at least before the end of the year, not least of which so that over time your giving blesses you with happiness.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are humbled and grateful to have earned your trust and will work day in and day out to keep it.

Donate Now

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

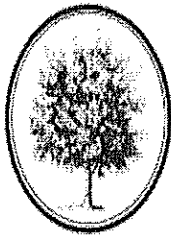
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:51 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: The Buckeye Institute fought hard for your property rights today at the Statehouse



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2016

Reforming Asset Forfeiture and Defending Property Rights

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Wednesday, The Buckeye Institute's President and CEO, Robert Alt testified before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Amended House Bill 347, which would substantially reform Ohio's civil asset forfeiture laws. Read his full testimony [here](#).

A broad range of organizations, along with an overwhelming majority of Ohioans, have continually expressed support for the proposed reforms.

In addition to Alt's testimony, The Buckeye Institute's Daniel Dew co-authored an op-ed in the Cincinnati Enquirer today, stating that the bill would curb an ongoing assault on private property.

The Columbus Dispatch cited Buckeye's testimony and reported that this bill is poised to pass next week, despite continued opposition from law enforcement and prosecutors.

Alt explained in his testimony that these reforms would be a significant step in defending the property rights of Ohio's citizens, since they return asset forfeiture to its original purpose without "impeding law enforcement's ability to prevent crime, pursue criminals, and secure convictions."

Suggestions were made during the hearings to align Ohio to misguided and non-indexed for inflation federal standards. Buckeye's President and CEO Robert Alt has a simple message in response: "We do things better in Ohio. We don't need to look to Washington for guidance. We can create better and fairer solutions right here in Columbus and, in doing so, set the standard for the entire nation on an issue that needs to be fixed. We can protect private property rights for our citizens, and still ensure that crime doesn't pay."

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

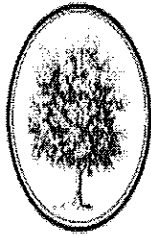
The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 4:21 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Is it possible to get tired of winning (policy victories)?



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

A prominent presidential candidate you may recognize (we're opinionated on policy around here, but are not partisan, darling) recently raised the entirely valid question about whether you could have too much winning. Nope. Not at The Buckeye Institute at least. We are on a roll winning. And we love it, we can't get enough winning, and we are just warming up preparing for even more wins next year...

If you want to hear some musical inspiration on this count, DJ Khaled's All I Do Is Win anthem has the upbeat and catchy refrain that applies to our policy efforts lately.

The Buckeye Institute racked up not just one, but four policy wins in the past 24 hours!

- We finally secured property rights against government seizure for non-criminals through the legislative passage of civil asset forfeiture reform in Ohio. Woo hoo!
- An idea we had to more rigorously review tax "expenditures" (ahem, some very smart people do call them as they are commonly known--loopholes) and reform the Ohio tax code passed the legislature. Woo hoo squared!
- We won the right for medical providers (doctors, etc.) to earn a portion of their continuing education credits through providing

charity care (donating their time and expertise) to under-served and low-income patients. Woo hoo cubed!

- We changed the process for reviewing occupational licensing boards to make sure that they are ensuring public safety and not just protecting their crony interests. We also won the automatic sunseting (eliminating by a certain date) of unnecessary licensing boards. We even defined what the least restrictive forms of regulation are, helped to rank them from least to most, and made it the policy of Ohio to try to do the LEAST restrictive forms of regulation while still ensuring public safety. Woo hoo to the fourth power!

As we said, these four tremendous policy wins passed the Ohio House and Senate in the past 24 hours (all we did was win, win, win!), but each is still subject to Governor's Kasich signature.... Let's hope that our Governor does the right thing and signs all four of these consequential policies into law in the next ten days so that Ohioans have more freedom, stronger property rights, more opportunity to succeed, more ability to serve the people who need it most, and more transparency in our tax code. Everyone wins then.

For all of you who support our work and stand with us through thick and thin, these wins are your wins. You did these! You made it possible for us to research, testify, educate, and persuade. You won these enormous policy victories that make Ohio better. Take a bow and proudly sing out loud "All I do is win, win, win!"

Go ahead, I'll wait. You can't do it without dancing a little bit, can you?

Send us a video of yourself singing that refrain through social media while you're at it. If it's good enough, we'll email it out to everyone if these policies are signed into law.

With The Buckeye Institute as your experienced, credible, and innovative policy partner, you will never get sick of winning! THAT I can tell you. Buh-lieve me folks. We will keep winning all year long.

For those of you looking for more detailed information about these wins, we will send thorough commentary and background as they are signed into law (again, assuming Governor Kasich does the right thing), including the specific research, policy work, and testimony we provided

to make them happen. Don't worry. You wonky policy paper lovers out there will have your fill of our work to review. We will also mention the specific legislators who advanced these ideas and will thank them accordingly and profusely for doing a wonderful job winning for Ohio. We're looking at you, Representatives and Senators on the side of good policy wins. We know who you are. And, of course, your Buckeye Institute has policy briefs upon testimony upon research papers for you to enjoy and to help you avoid any of your less than favorite in-laws over Christmas break--just hand them a copy of our longest policy papers and ask them to read silently to themselves near a crackling fire instead of talking to you.

In the meantime, have a terrific weekend celebrating our beloved Buckeyes getting into the national college football playoff and these important policy wins for O-H-I-O! Cheers.

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

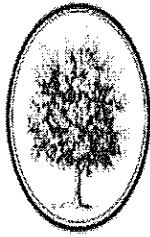
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 10:41 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Reminder: Seminar with Daniel Dew today at noon



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

If your lunch hour has opened up, please join us today at noon for a seminar with Buckeye's Criminal Justice Fellow, Daniel Dew. Again, it's free of charge. Just bring your own lunch and show up on time!

As announced previously, Dew will give a talk on criminal justice reform efforts in the state of Ohio.

When: Buckeye's lunchtime seminars begin promptly at noon and end by 1:30 at the latest (and often earlier)

Where: The Buckeye Institute's conference room on the 11th floor of the Key Bank building located on the corner of East Broad Street and 3rd at 88 East Broad Street, directly across from Statehouse

Hope to see you there!

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

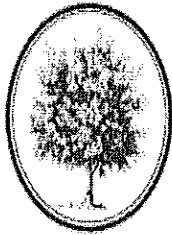
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: The Buckeye Institute fights back against costly RPS Standards



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2016

The Buckeye Institute Pushes Back Against RPS Standards and Stands Up for Lower Electricity Bills in New Policy Brief

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Thursday, The Buckeye Institute released a brand new policy brief addressing one of the most important policies the legislature has debated in this "lame duck" session: the renewables portfolio standards (RPS).

As you would guess, these government mandates dictate to your electricity provider how much "renewable" or "green" (think wind and solar) energy sources they must use. They seek to reduce overall energy usage, charge you higher rates, and use the proceeds to subsidize the true cost of those funny-looking spiraled energy efficient light bulbs.

The problem? These RPS mandates--which of course sound nice and eco-friendly to many people--are costly, but provide little (if any) real health or environmental benefits.

You might be willing to pay a little more of your own green toward your electricity bill to support more green energy, and that should be your choice. But forcing everyone to do it regardless of whether they can afford it--even, for example, big manufacturers that employ

thousands of Ohioans and are fighting tooth-and-nail to compete in a tough global market--means that Ohio companies will create fewer jobs and lower income folks will struggle with the increase in their utility bills.

At The Buckeye Institute, we don't believe in killing jobs for regular Ohioans and increasing electricity bills on folks who are barely making it in order to make some people feel better about themselves.

That's why Buckeye applauded legislators' 2014 decision to freeze the mandates for two years and reconsider the policy. A study committee recommended extending the freeze indefinitely. Unfortunately, this recommendation was not followed.

The Buckeye Institute's Policy Brief explains further. The brief is an easier-to-read version of our new more comprehensive white paper that uses hard data and solid economics to demonstrate how exactly RPS policies raise prices. And higher energy prices mean lower job creation. Although our brief shows that eliminating the mandates altogether is the best policy, the legislation awaiting the governor's signature is certainly better than nothing at all. The legislation delays the reinstatement of the RPS mandates and gives utility companies time to transition and find the best ways to comply, keeping costs lower for consumers.

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

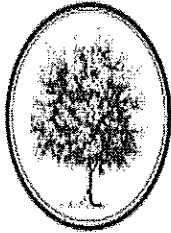
Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](#)

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Friday, December 16, 2016 4:50 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: The Buckeye Institute releases Economic Freedom of North America 2016



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Rea Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President
(614) 224-4422 or Rea@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2016

Ohio Scores Poorly on New Economic Freedom Report:

The Buckeye Institute Released Economic Freedom of North America 2016

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Friday, The Buckeye Institute in partnership with the Canadian Fraser Institute released its latest economic freedom report that ranks every state and province in North America. The report, *Economic Freedom of North America 2016*, ranks each jurisdiction based on economic freedom (as measured by government spending, taxation, and labor market restrictions) using data from 2014, the most recent year of available data.

According to the new 2016 report, Ohio ranks 38th among the 50 states in economic freedom. Although the state has experienced some improvement--it has moved up two spots from last year, thanks to some positive reforms of tax policy--it is held back by some of the highest government spending in the nation, especially on public employee pensions, workers' compensation, and social programs.

"Ohio's tax reforms over the last year have increased economic freedom in the state. However, Ohio remains well below the national average due to government spending and government subsidies," says Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President of The

Buckeye Institute. "The next Ohio budget needs to include provisions that protect prosperity and reduce government."

The Fraser Institute has measured economic freedom in every state and province in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for 12 years now, creating a comprehensive assessment of trends in economic freedom. The Buckeye Institute and its Economic Research Center are co-publishing this prestigious report for the second year in a row, along with offering additional in-depth analysis specifically about Ohio's economy.

The Buckeye Institute's Ohio Economic Freedom Fact Sheet summarizes where Ohio ranks in various economic freedom policies. The state's low overall ranking reinforces the need for substantial economic policy reforms.

The Fraser Institute and The Buckeye Institute are independent think tanks that research and advocate for free market economic policies. The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center specializes in data analysis of state-level economic policies.

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society

Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 11:01 AM

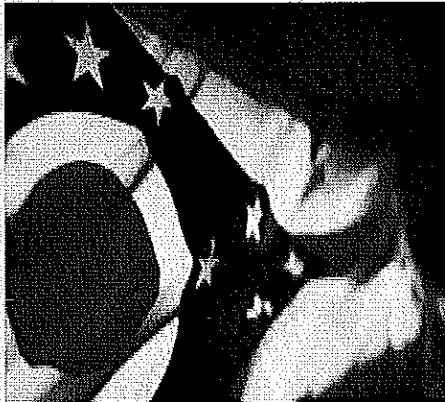
To: Rep48

Subject: You're invited to Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig (Jan 12, 2017)

Hello ,

You are invited to the following event:

RESOLVED: KEEP THE FDA AWAY FROM MY E-CIG



[Attend Event](#)

Event to be held at the following time,
date, and location:

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 12:00
PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus

136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[View Map](#)

Share this event:



Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives? Please join us for a lunchtime debate.

Where: Athletic Club of Columbus

When: High noon on January 17, 2017

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law
Case Western Reserve University School of
Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of
Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Buckeye Institute

The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by *January 10* to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a

check for an additional \$25 payable to the
Federalist Society.

This invitation was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov by [Columbus
Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society](#) the organizer. To stop
receiving invitations from this organizer, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Eventbrite, Inc. | 155 5th St, 7th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94103

*Event ticketing and online
registration by*

Eventbrite

From: Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 11:00 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: (Corrected) Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig (Jan 12, 2017)

Hello ,

You are invited to the following event:

RESOLVED: KEEP THE FDA AWAY FROM MY E-CIG



[Attend Event](#)

Event to be held at the following time,
date, and location:

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 12:00
PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus

136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[View Map](#)

Share this event:



*(Correction: The body of the previous
invitation misstated the date of the event. This
event will occur on January 12, 2017.)*

Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives? Please join us for a lunchtime debate.

Where: Athletic Club of Columbus

When: High noon on January 12, 2017

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law

Case Western Reserve University School of
Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law

The Ohio State University Moritz College of
Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer

The Buckeye Institute

The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by *January 10* to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the

dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a check for an additional \$25 payable to the Federalist Society.

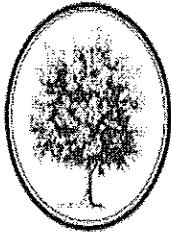
This invitation was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov by [Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society](#) the organizer. To stop receiving invitations from this organizer, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Eventbrite, Inc. | 155 5th St, 7th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94103

*Event ticketing and online
registration by*

Eventbrite

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Gov. Kasich's Veto on Energy Reform is Lump of Coal for Ohio Families



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 27, 2016

Governor Kasich Thwarts Legislature's Commonsense

Reform to Energy Mandates

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Tuesday, Governor Kasich vetoed a bill that would have implemented extremely modest and positive reforms to state energy mandates for renewable energy and energy efficiency. As The Buckeye Institute's research and reports have shown time and again, these mandates that specify how much of our energy must come from renewable or green sources are costly, harm job creation, and make it difficult on families that are already struggling to pay the bills.

Robert Murray of Murray Energy cited Buckeye's "excellent" testimony to the Energy Mandates Study Committee from July 2015 in his own statement to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on December 8 in making the case against the energy mandates.

In his remarks, Murray included a compelling story from earlier this year, when he was forced to close his oldest mine and lay off hundreds of employees:

"One of these thirty (30) year employees, age 52, that I was forced to lay off, came into my office bawling. I could not get this big, burly, red-faced man out of my office. The renewable energy industries and our Federal leaders have no idea regarding the destruction that they have caused to the families of Ohioans who have only wanted to work in honor and dignity."

Buckeye's latest white paper, which uses a dynamic economic model to analyze precisely how the energy mandates affect the labor market, shows that these mandates Kasich supports actually *reduce* job growth. You can read more about the results in our lighter, more condensed Policy Brief.

And it is not just coal miner jobs that Ohio loses as a result of these mandates, although those are especially important--particularly for the struggling region of Appalachian Ohio that is desperate for jobs. Buckeye's "Power to the People" report analyzes why it is likely that large manufacturers, which make up almost one-fifth of Ohio's economy and use lots of electricity, are adversely impacted by the mandates and are also likely to reduce hiring.

Finally, Ohio's low-income families are hurt the most by rising utility bills because it leaves them with less disposable income to spend on things like groceries or books for their kids.

Given all of this evidence of the economic harm from energy mandates, it is unfortunate that politics got in the way of the right policy for Ohio.

The story is not over yet, however. The General Assembly could try to override Governor Kasich's veto with a supermajority of votes in both houses in order to make a positive difference for Ohio. While we at Buckeye ultimately want an outright elimination of these burdensome energy mandates that are of dubious environmental value at best, the legislature's modest reform is better than nothing. Perhaps the best Christmas gift of all would be to trade in the lump of coal Kasich's veto of this legislation offered Ohioans and instead have jobs for coal miners as well as cheaper (and locally-produced) energy for Ohio families and businesses.

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society

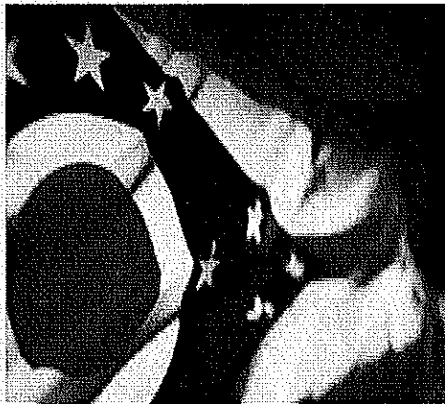
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 11:02 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: Reminder to Sign up for Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig
(Jan 12, 2017)

You are invited to the following event:

RESOLVED: KEEP THE FDA AWAY FROM MY E-CIG



Attend Event

Event to be held at the following time,
date, and location:

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 12:00
PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus

136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[View Map](#)

Share this event:



Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives? Please join us for a lunchtime debate.

Where: Athletic Club of Columbus

When: High noon on January 12, 2017

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law

Case Western Reserve University School of
Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of
Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Buckeye Institute

The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by *January 10* to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a

check for an additional \$25 payable to the
Federalist Society.

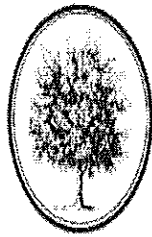
This invitation was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov by [Columbus
Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society](#) the organizer. To stop
receiving invitations from this organizer, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Eventbrite, Inc. | 155 5th St, 7th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94103

*Event ticketing and online
registration by*

Eventbrite

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Between two Fiesta Bowls--Message from Robert Alt



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Dear Friends,

As I prepare to cheer our Buckeyes on to victory tonight, I have been reflecting on the year gone by. It struck me that January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016, share common Fiesta Bowls featuring our beloved Buckeyes. Didn't we already win this game for 2016? To quote Yogi Berra, "It's déjà vu all over again."

The Buckeye Institute has racked up a significant string of policy victories since 2016's 1st Fiesta Bowl--victories that expand liberty in Ohio and beyond. Here are a few highlights:

- **Occupational Licensing:** Should Ohioans be forced to spend 300 extra hours of training in order to become a salon manager? Of course not. This is just one of the more than 30 counterproductive occupational licensing requirements Buckeye lead the charge in throwing on the ash heap of history. Our research highlighted this problem. Ohio was the only state in the nation with this onerous regulation when the 1st Fiesta Bowl of 2016 happened. It is now gone! Policymakers took note of our work and eliminated the manager's license requirement in 2016, specifically praising Buckeye's research for leading the way to reform.
- **Civil Asset Forfeiture:** Buckeye launched an educational campaign on the need for civil asset forfeiture reform to assure

that the government could not continue to seize your property without convicting of you of a crime. This is basic common sense. When this reform passed earlier this month, policymakers once again publicly acknowledged Buckeye's work as instrumental to reforming the policy.

- **Charity Care:** Rather than government mandates, how about making it easier for medical professionals to donate their services to help those in need? Buckeye proposed policy changes that would encourage charity work by medical professionals by giving them continuing education credits for doing so. In a win for all Ohioans, policymakers enacted these reforms earlier this month.

These are just a few highlights of our significant accomplishments since the last Fiesta Bowl, but none of them--not one--would have been possible without you, our dear supporters.

Because of you, The Buckeye Institute had our most successful year in its 27-year history. And we're only just getting started.

2017 year promises to be even better, but we'll need your help once again. Buckeye will continue to lead the way to greater freedom and prosperity in Ohio and all the states through innovation on topics like budget policy, healthcare, energy, and criminal justice issues.

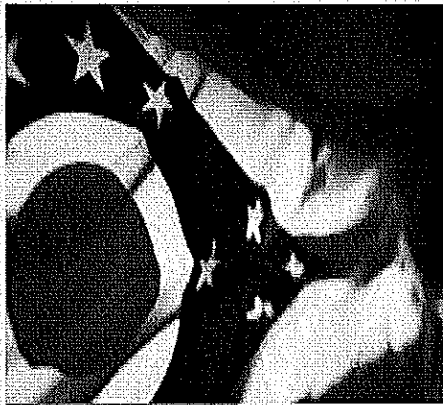
We can't do it without you. We don't solicit or accept government grants or any other taxpayer funding. We believe in the goodness of Americans in supporting our cause. We need your investment to continue doing our vital work, and we have big plans for next year. We can't wait to tell you about them soon.

There is still time left to make a gift to Buckeye in 2016. If you give to Buckeye before the clock strikes midnight, you will get both the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a real difference in helping good public policy win, and you will also enjoy that true inner peace that comes from getting the maximum tax deduction the law allows while this politically-charged IRS wishes you couldn't. (I have a familiar and catchy phrase for Lois Lerner's team who targeted Buckeye to shut us down or at least shut us up back in 2013: so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye....)

From: Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Sign Up for The Federalist Society's January Event!

You are invited to the following event:

RESOLVED: KEEP THE FDA AWAY FROM MY E-CIG



Attend Event

Event to be held at the following time,
date, and location:

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 12:00
PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus
136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[View Map](#)

Share this event:



Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives? Please join us for a lunchtime debate.

Where: Athletic Club of Columbus

When: High noon on January 12, 2017

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law
Case Western Reserve University School of
Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of
Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Buckeye Institute

The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by *January 10* to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a

check for an additional \$25 payable to the
Federalist Society.

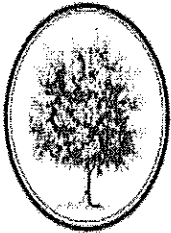
This invitation was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov by [Columbus
Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society](#) the organizer. To stop
receiving invitations from this organizer, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Eventbrite, Inc. | 155 5th St, 7th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94103

*Event ticketing and online
registration by*

Eventbrite

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 10:08 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Kasich signs significant civil asset forfeiture reform into law for Ohio



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 2017

Civil Asset Forfeiture Reforms Become Law in Ohio

We're not saying it makes up for the cringe-worthy Fiesta Bowl loss, but we ARE saying we are thrilled about this New Year's victory for property rights in the Buckeye State!

Earlier today, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed into law sweeping reforms to Ohio's civil asset forfeiture process. This reform is most definitely an idea whose time had come. Civil asset forfeiture laws--believe it or not--had previously allowed the government to take private property without convicting or even *charging* the property owner of a crime. Yes, you read that right.

It was outrageous, and your Buckeye Institute had been leading the charge to get this situation fixed.

A cursory review of the Constitution and your basic sense of justice may tell you that a person ought to need to be convicted of a crime to be punished by the government and have his/her property forfeited. Sadly, that was not the case in Ohio--until now.

This new legislation requires a conviction in most cases before government can take ownership of a person's property--a policy that Buckeye has long championed.

Daniel Dew, Buckeye's Criminal Justice Fellow, said, "The Buckeye Institute applauds Governor Kasich, and heartily congratulates legislators including Rep. Rob McColley, Rep. Tom Brinkman, Senator Kris Jordan, Senator Larry Obhof, Senator Bill Coley, Senator Bill Seitz, and Senator Cecil Thomas who fought for this sorely-needed reform to our previously unacceptable civil asset forfeiture procedures in Ohio."

Representative Rob McColley, the primary sponsor, complimented our work on this issue in saying, "The Buckeye Institute provided tremendous policy expertise to those of us in the legislature fighting to reform civil asset forfeiture and defend the property rights of all Ohioans. Buckeye's good work and leadership on criminal justice reforms more broadly--and on civil asset forfeiture specifically--help to ensure that Ohio is a leader in protecting our citizens."

Our explanatory policy brief on civil asset forfeiture can be found [here](#). Our interested party testimony that was offered in the Senate and House can be found [here](#) and [here](#), respectively. Op-eds published by our policy experts on the issue are available for your review [here](#) and [here](#).

Groups spanning the spectrum philosophically from the left to the right including the Coalition for Public Safety, the ACLU of Ohio, Faith & Freedom Coalition, and U.S. Justice Action Network worked together with us to advance this necessary policy change that benefits all Ohioans. FreedomWorks ran a grassroots campaign as well, for which we are grateful.

If you need help understanding the ins and outs of this issue or, worse, explaining it to your big government friends, [here is an oversimplified yet amusing and informative explanation](#) of civil asset forfeiture. (Fair warning: there is some naughty language, as the video clip is from an HBO television show.)

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

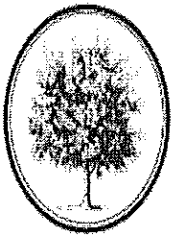
The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: More Legislation Based on Buckeye Policy Ideas Signed into Law Yesterday



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2016

More Legislation Based on Buckeye Policy Ideas

Signed into Law Yesterday

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Late Wednesday afternoon, Governor John Kasich signed legislation to allow medical professionals to receive continuing education credits for donating their time to provide charity medical care for low income and rural Ohioans who otherwise would not have access to quality healthcare services.

This law rewards medical professionals including doctors and nurses who want to help, and does not cost taxpayers *any* additional funding.

There is no sweeter music to our ears at Buckeye than good policy that solves real problems, helps people, and doesn't cost taxpayer money.... To be honest, sometimes we even choke up and get teary thinking about saving taxpayer dollars. We're policy geeks, we really can't help it. It's what we do.

We think about this stuff day and night so you can rest easy knowing that we're looking out for you and coming up with innovative policy ideas that don't involve more government. Yikes... even just saying "more government" out loud gives us the heebie jeebies.

The Buckeye Institute first recommended this policy to legislators back in 2015 when we discussed several different ways to improve access to healthcare in Ohio. Buckeye later commended legislators for proposing our policy, and subsequently reminded them of the benefits of this awesome policy idea we had during lame duck. (If you don't know what lame duck legislative sessions are--you aren't alone--but we gave the history of the lame duck term here hoping to demystify it.)

By making charity care more rewarding for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals to voluntarily serve low income and underserved patients, the amount of healthcare delivered to those Ohioans will increase at no cost to taxpayers. This is a superior alternative to expanding failed government programs, especially as those very same programs often deliver unacceptable results to those they claim to help.

"Finding ways to increase healthcare services to those most in need is a major challenge that will require many policy changes. Buckeye is on it. Yesterday, Ohio embraced one of these helpful policy changes that we proposed in 2015, which takes a step down the road to improving healthcare for all Ohioans regardless of income or location," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President of The Buckeye Institute.

The Buckeye Institute is proud to be a national leader on healthcare policy issues, and is grateful for the efforts of both Representative Robert Sprague and Senator Peggy Lehner for taking up this important policy issue--and seeing it through to fruition. A hearty O-H to both of you!

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

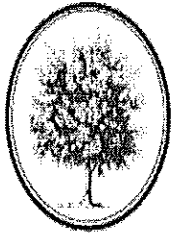
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 4:45 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: Have you heard the one about the Buckeye lawyers who fought city hall?*



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2017

*Don't take city hall literally in this case. Your Buckeye Institute is actually taking on the entire federal government. And, unfortunately, this isn't a punch line to a bad lawyer joke either!

The Buckeye Institute Files Prominent Brief in U.S. Supreme Court to Protect First Amendment Rights--Vows to Fight Attempts to Silence Free Speech at All Costs

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Tuesday, The Buckeye Institute filed a legal brief with the United States Supreme Court in an all-out legal battle to keep you, our dear friends/investors/supporters, off a government list.

Besides our inherent distaste for government lists on principle, the particular list at issue here violates your First Amendment rights. This list will be used to intimidate you for partnering with Buckeye and other organizations of your choosing.

Here is the backstory: the federal government is going after one of our sister think tanks--Independence Institute in Colorado--and trying to compel it to produce its donor list. Those of you who have been with Buckeye for a while know that our own response to the same

inquiry by IRS agents was a pretty forceful "not one damn name" during our own politically-motivated audit 3 years ago.

We didn't give a single name from our list to the government then, and we aren't about to stand by while the government tries to force our good friends in Colorado doing solid policy work there to give in either.

In fact, The Buckeye Institute joined with State Policy Network to lead the coalition of 24 state-based policy organizations in fighting this unconstitutional effort to erode your ability to speak freely and give in privacy to the causes and organizations you believe in.

The government claims that because an ad by Independence Institute referenced specific candidates within 60 days of the election, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act requires Independence Institute to disclose its entire list of donors to the government.

After all, the government would never misuse or abuse a list of people who donate to a cause with which it disagrees, *right?* Unfortunately, at The Buckeye Institute we know all too well what the government can do with a list (*cough, ahem, Lois Lerner, cough*).

501(c)(3) organizations, like yours truly here, are limited by IRS rules and regulations from advocating for or against political candidates. However, when educating the public on good and bad policy, it is nearly impossible to do so without mentioning the names of those who make the good or bad policies into law.

The ad in question did not advocate for or against any candidates; it just referenced them by name.

Anonymity is a pillar of free speech that your Buckeye Institute will continue to fight for. Without anonymity or privacy, an oppressive majority can intimidate people and organizations into silence--a hallmark of tyranny.

At Buckeye, we will continue to do everything in our power to keep you off of a government list for exercising your God-given and constitutionally recognized right to free

speech. Your support of The Buckeye Institute or any other causes you believe in is your own business, and we will not report your donation to the government. (Remember the media shock at the number of people who voted for Trump? There is a good reason we have secret ballots and don't make it public record whom you supported for president either.)

If you'd like to read our awesome brief in full, be forewarned. While our amazing attorney-in-chief and president Robert Alt swears it is a page-turner, we would strongly advise you to have some coffee first. It was written by some impressive legal minds representing you extraordinarily well at the highest court in the land, and we just want you to have the energy necessary to stick with it to the end. We aren't Alabama around here. We finish strong. Enjoy!

#

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

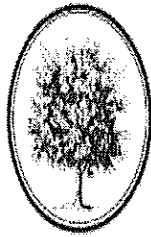
The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Are you in Columbus and open for lunch tomorrow?



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

The Buckeye Institute's President and CEO Robert Alt is moderating a debate for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter of The Federalist Society.

You're all invited! Heck, even your least favorite in-laws and weird neighbors with the mismatched Christmas lights are too. We don't discriminate against anyone who would like to hear a good regulatory debate. Bring any friends, colleagues, or family you would like (after registering them). See details below.

Topic: The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives?

Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Buckeye Institute

The cost is \$20 for those who are not current members of the Columbus Lawyers Chapter (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by January 11 to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a check for an additional \$25 payable to the Federalist Society.

If wonky lawyer debates aren't your thing or you're not in Columbus tomorrow, feel free to forward to anyone who might like to join us.

#####

The event will be held at the
following time, date, and location:

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus
136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215



[View Map](#)

Share this event:



[Click Here to RSVP](#)

#####

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.



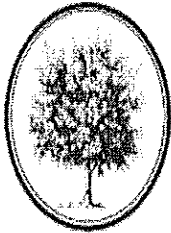
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Buckeye releases new policy brief on prison reform



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2017

Reforming Ohio's Prisons and Saving Taxpayer Dollars

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Friday, The Buckeye Institute released a new policy brief outlining an innovative policy solution to reform Ohio's outdated and overpopulated prison system.

Ohio currently spends \$1.7 billion dollars every year on incarceration, and its prisons are at 134% of their capacity. Unless something is done to reduce this bloated population, the state could end up spending an additional \$1 billion to build an entirely new prison.

Thankfully, as The Buckeye Institute's Daniel Dew explains, Ohio already paved the way to a solution with its reform of the juvenile incarceration system.

"While many policymakers look to Texas and other states to see what they have done to reduce their prison populations, the most successful program to safely reduce incarceration can be found right here in Ohio's juvenile system. By using a market-based approach to encourage local rehabilitation, Ohio's juvenile incarcerated population dropped 74% and Pew estimates that for every dollar Ohio invests in the program it saves \$45."

The Buckeye Institute's policy brief explains these reforms in more detail, and shows how Ohio policymakers could replicate them to solve the ills plaguing its adult prisons.

If implemented, such a system would not only dramatically cut down the prison population, but it would also promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and help combat the drug epidemic--all while saving taxpayers millions, if not billions, of dollars.

#

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

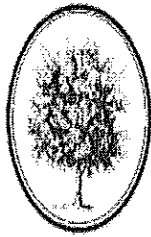
The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Buckeye seminar series for 2017 begins TOMORROW!



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

You are once again cordially invited to our Buckeye staff lunchtime seminar series for 2017. In case you missed our emails last fall with further details, see the bottom of this message about how these seminars work.

TOMORROW! Tuesday, January 31:

Just in time for Ohio's new biennial budget release, Buckeye's renowned Economist Dr. Orphe Divounguy will give a talk called: "Incentives Matter: An Examination of Tax Policy and the Importance of Incentives." Whether you are an economist or policymaker or are not quite sure you understand economic concepts, Dr. Divounguy is here to help explain why and exactly how the tax code impacts individual and corporate behavior.

Divounguy earned his Ph.D. from England's University of Southampton, and served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant before joining the Buckeye team and our Economic Research Center (ERC) last year.

Tuesday, February 28:

Buckeye's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rea S. Hederman, Jr. will discuss the future of healthcare in the states in a speech entitled: "What's next for Health Care in the Post-Obama Era?"

Hederman is a national expert on healthcare policy. He also manages Buckeye's staff, operations, research, and policy output, and oversees the Economic Research Center (ERC). Hederman's commentary has been published in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, National Affairs, National Review Online, and FoxNews.com, among others.

When: Buckeye's lunchtime seminars begin promptly at noon and end by 1:30 at the latest (and often earlier).

Where: The Buckeye Institute's conference room on the 11th floor of the Key Bank building located on the corner of East Broad Street and 3rd at 88 East Broad Street in Columbus, directly across from Statehouse/Capitol building. If you need help finding parking downtown, [click here](#).

Background: The Buckeye Institute's policy experts and leadership team regularly share their expert insight and wisdom with Buckeye's staff and interns over lunch. Last fall, we decided to try something experimental.

We began offering our supporters the opportunity to attend these formerly staff-and-interns-only lunchtime seminars. We just asked that you let us know you're coming, [bring your own lunch](#), and show up on time so as not to interrupt the speaker.

The response to this experiment was overwhelmingly positive, and attendance grew each month. We are confident that you'll find these seminars both educational and enjoyable. If for some reason you don't, our 2016 money back guarantee still applies this year: simply file a complaint at www.TakeItOrLeaveIt--It'sFree--Let'sWorkOnOurGratitude.com.

We hope you'll join us tomorrow and at all of our monthly seminars in 2017!

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

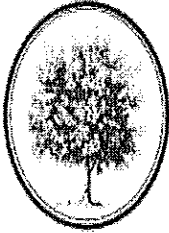
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Quotes from Buckeye experts on Kasich's Budget Proposal



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 204-0259 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2017

The Buckeye Institute released the following quotes for immediate press use regarding aspects of Governor Kasich's budget.

Education:

"Taken as a whole, Governor Kasich's school funding proposal is a welcome change from the past several budgets of high growth in spending that exceeded the rate of inflation. While it would be even better to flat fund K-12 education, it is the right time to work through the flaws of school funding including 'caps' and 'guarantees.' This budget proposal moves in that direction."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

Spending:

"While general revenue spending in Governor Kasich's budget proposal decreases in the next two fiscal years, overall spending actually increases by 4.4% in FY17 and 1.8% in FY19 largely due to increased Medicaid costs. To more adequately 'right-size' Ohio's government, general revenues should not be spent on programs that would be better funded through private philanthropy."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

Taxes:

"Governor Kasich should be commended for simplifying Ohio's income tax system by reducing the number of brackets and continuing a shift toward consumption taxes and away from personal income taxes. However, we have grave concerns about tax proposals that single out specific industries to be assessed higher taxes. Government should not be in the business of penalizing or rewarding certain sectors, businesses, or industries."

- Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President at The Buckeye Institute

Municipal Income Taxes:

"Ohio's municipal income tax is one of the most complex and administratively burdensome taxes in the entire nation. Proposals to simplify this entrapping byzantine maze--including moving toward a singular centralized collection process--are long overdue and represent very sound public policy. The Buckeye Institute heartily applauds Governor Kasich for advancing this much-needed and important reform for Ohio."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

Energy/Severance Tax:

"A severance tax was the wrong policy in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, and it remains the wrong policy in 2017. Raising taxes on the struggling energy sector is throwing an anvil to a drowning man."

- Joe Nichols, Energy Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center

DRC Budget:

"The Buckeye Institute applauds Governor Kasich and Director Mohr for using evidence-based policy proposals for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) budget. Overwhelming evidence shows that low-level criminal offenders who are rehabilitated locally are less likely to commit future crimes because they remain engaged in their communities, and--more importantly--are not picking up bad habits from more hardened and violent criminals in prison. The budget introduced today takes a step forward in keeping our neighborhoods safer, reducing government spending, and allocating resources to local communities to combat the epidemic of drug addiction."

- Daniel J. Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow at The Buckeye Institute

Medicaid:

"Medicaid continues to be the Pac-Man of the state budget. While several cost savings and personal responsibility proposals in Governor Kasich's budget proposal are sound policy, far more must be done. Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will crowd out other essential investments and priorities. Further, the plan to make up for the now disallowed Medicaid Managed Care sales tax is significantly flawed. Applying a tax to all health insurers, whether they do Medicaid business or not, sets a terrible precedent even if the immediate financial cost to the non-Medicaid businesses is limited presently."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

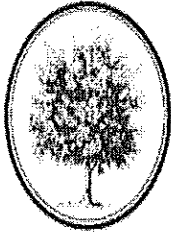
The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:21 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Buckeye President Comments on Gorsuch Nomination



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2017

Commenting on the appointment of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, The Buckeye Institute's President Robert Alt said the following:

"Judge Neil Gorsuch's approach to the law is, well, judicious. Gorsuch has said that judges ought to declare what the law *is*, not what 'they might wish it to be in light of their own political views.' The commonsense of Gorsuch's judicial philosophy is refreshing in the overly politicized climate of Washington these days."

"Judge Neil Gorsuch is the kind of intellectually serious and exceedingly well-qualified judge everyone on both sides of the aisle should be able to support. He deserves an up or down vote."

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:04 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: The Leaflet - Health Care Reform Options for States



Health Care Reform Options for States

With the fate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) still uncertain, there are steps state legislators can take to improve the cost and availability of health care in their states. Heartland Institute Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans outlines 10 such reforms in a new *Research & Commentary* published in January. Glans argues states should not wait for Congress and the White House to fix our nation's health care policies; they should instead, Glans says, implement proposals to help make health care more competitive, accessible, and affordable.

One of the ways states can reform health care is by expanding access to health savings accounts (HSAs). Under an HSA system, consumers contribute funds to health-care-dedicated savings accounts tax-free and use the funds to pay for qualifying health care expenses. Under many HSA proposals, the funds carry over from year to year.

Julie Appleby, a senior correspondent for the nonprofit news service Kaiser Health News, said in a recent NPR.org article HSAs can save significant amounts of money because consumers bear a bigger share of medical care costs up front, which means they are more likely to shop around and avoid using unnecessary medical services.

As Appleby explains, under the current system, "HSAs ... must be paired with qualifying health insurance plans that have annual deductibles of at least \$1,300 for individuals or \$2,600 for a family, although surveys show average deductibles are generally higher than those minimums. Unlike some other types of insurance, the consumer pays the full cost of most doctor visits, drugs or hospital stays until the deductible is met. There are some exceptions for services deemed preventive, such as certain vaccines, prescription medications or cancer screenings."

Consumers who pair HSAs with high deductible plans have the potential to save thousands of dollars per year, making the health care system much more efficient in the process. Indiana has offered HSA plans to its public employees since 2006 with great success for both the employees and taxpayers.

Another way to improve the cost and availability of health care services in states is to roll back certificate of need (CON) laws. Glans argues in a *Research & Commentary*, "These laws block competition and innovation in the health care market. At present, 35 states require CON

commission approval for a wide range of expenditures, including the construction of new hospitals, purchase of major pieces of medical technology, and the offering of new medical procedures. CON laws increase the cost of health care and limit access, benefitting those with political connections.”

States can also improve health care service availability by expanding direct primary care (DPC) access. Not to be confused with “concierge medicine,” DPC bypasses insurers and usually cost \$50 to \$100 per month. In a 2015 *Research & Commentary*, State Government Relations Manager Nathan Makla wrote, “Direct primary care empowers patients and doctors, giving them more freedom to establish and participate in health-care-provider models that work best for all patients. North Carolina should remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to direct primary care and allow more public-sector employees to participate in a DPC system.”

State legislators should pass legislation specifying DPC is not a form of insurance, removing a common barrier facing physicians interested in adopting a DPC model but afraid a state bureaucracy might shut down their new practice. Lawmakers should also integrate a direct primary care program into their Medicaid system, a move that would help reduce costs and improve care.

States can and should take health care reform into their own hands to improve the lives of citizens and shore up state budgets across the nation.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Budget & Tax

Oklahoma Legislator Proposes Weakening Tax Relief Trigger
Dustin Siggins, associate editor for *The Stream*, writes in this *Budget & Tax News* article about a Republican state legislator in Oklahoma who is proposing a bill that would revise the state government’s “tax trigger” law, raising the revenue level at which the state government is required to reduce income tax rates. Trigger laws have become an increasingly popular method for states to use to reduce tax rates while not compromising revenue. A *Research & Commentary* on the issue is available [here](#). [Read more](#)



Education

Research & Commentary: Universal ESA Program Would Make Arkansas a National Leader in Education Choice

A bill has been introduced in the Arkansas House of Representatives that, if passed, would be the nation’s first universal education savings accounts (ESA) program to be funded via tax-credit scholarships. These ESAs would be available for use by parents to pay for tuition and fees at private and parochial schools, should parents choose to do so. In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson argues making available a universal ESA would greatly benefit

the state. "Allowing all students in Arkansas to receive ESAs would be a giant step toward remedying Arkansas' lackluster record of failing to educate its children," Benson wrote. "When parents are given the opportunity to choose, every school must compete and improve, which gives more children the opportunity to attend a quality school." [Read more](#)

Energy & Environment

Research & Commentary: Banning Fracking in Maryland Would Be a Mistake

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about efforts being made by some Maryland lawmakers to permanently ban hydraulic fracturing, commonly called "fracking," in the state before the two-year moratorium on the process expires in October. The ban would be a mistake, Benson argues, because "as well as being environmentally safe, fracking has had a positive economic impact on those areas that have allowed the practice."

"The fracking process has transformed the energy outlook of the United States over the past decade, and the rise of shale gas as a replacement for coal has been primarily responsible for the United States now enjoying its lowest level of carbon-dioxide emissions since 1989," wrote Benson. "There is no scientific justification for banning hydraulic fracturing or over-regulating it out of existence." [Read more](#)

Health Care

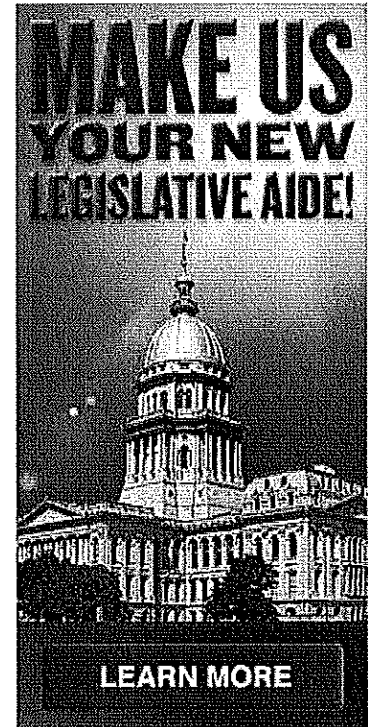
Research & Commentary: Health Care Sharing Ministries a Good Alternative to ACA

The rising health insurance premiums and deductibles that have occurred as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have led many families to seek alternatives to health insurance. One alternative that has drawn considerable interest and expanded rapidly since the implementation of the ACA is health care sharing ministries (HCSMs). In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans defines HCSMs and describes the many benefits they offer to those who take advantage of them. "HCSMs are the modern equivalent of mutual-aid societies, groups that voluntarily work together to ensure everyone gets the health care they need. States should allow this growth to continue and not move to add unnecessary layers of regulation, as many state insurance commissioners have recommended," wrote Glans. [Read more](#)

From Our Free-Market Friends

The Buckeye Institute Releases New Policy Brief on Prison Reform

The Buckeye Institute recently released a new *Policy Brief*



POLICY NEWSPAPER



The February 2017 issue of *Health Care News* reports most enrollees in Medicaid expansion under Obamacare were previously eligible for the program, meaning federal taxpayers got ripped off, paying a higher share of states' Medicaid bills than they should have. According to Brian Blase, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, "for people incorrectly classified [as

outlining an innovative policy solution that could reform Ohio's outdated and overpopulated prison system. Ohio currently spends \$1.7 billion every year on incarceration, and its prisons are at 134 percent of their capacity. Daniel Dew, The Buckeye Institute's criminal justice fellow, argues, "Unless something is done to reduce this bloated population, the state could end up spending an additional \$1 billion to build an entirely new prison. ... Thankfully Ohio already paved the way to a solution with its reform of the juvenile incarceration system." The Buckeye Institute's *Policy Brief* explains these reforms in more detail and shows how Ohio policymakers could replicate them to solve the ills plaguing the state's adult prisons. [Read more](#)

newly eligible for Medicaid], the federal government is paying about \$3,000 too much."

[Budget & Tax News](#)

[Environment & Climate News](#)

[School Reform News](#)



The Heartland Institute

The Heartland Institute is a 33-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.

Our Websites

- [The Heartland Institute](#)
- [PolicyBot](#)
- [The Freedom Pub](#)
- [The Parent Trigger](#)
- [Climate Conference](#)

[Tweet](#) [Like](#) [Share](#)

This message was sent to rep48@ohiohouse.gov from:

Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team | nmakla@heartland.org |

Diane Bast | 3939 North Wilke Road | Arlington Heights, IL 60004

[Manage Your Subscription](#)

Email Marketing by

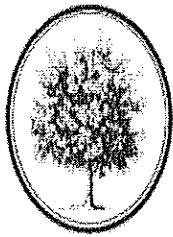
iContact
TRY IT FOR FREE ▶

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:17 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: Economic Research Center releases spiffy new reports and model of Wyoming's economy



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., Economist
(614) 224-4422 or Orphe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center Releases New Model of Wyoming's Economy-- Demonstrates Impact of Various Policy Changes

Columbus, OH--On Thursday, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center (ERC) released two timely reports on Wyoming's fiscal and economic problems as demonstrated by a sophisticated new dynamic model it created of Wyoming's economy:

- Review of Wyoming's Fiscal Health
- Fiscal Policy, Theory, and Measurement: The State of Wyoming

These comprehensive economic studies were conducted in partnership with Wyoming Liberty Group in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Economists at The Buckeye Institute's ERC analyzed both the challenges and several potential policy solutions for Wyoming's state budget woes. With its unique custom economic models that employ top-of-the-line dynamic analysis, ERC economists were able to predict how changes in various proposed tax policies will alternately create additional, or threaten existing, jobs in Wyoming.

Wyoming Liberty Group CEO Jonathan Downing said,

"Wyoming Liberty Group is pleased to be able to provide the hard facts, data, economic research, and analysis of various public policy solutions to Wyoming's budget crisis, which have been sorely needed in years past. With this new information and dynamic model in hand, policymakers will have the tools necessary to make fiscally-sound decisions as they address the state's budget issues."

The ERC's model unfortunately reveals that the fiscal problems Wyoming faces may be even worse than anticipated. Excluding transfers from state savings, Wyoming revenue collections have fallen ten percent per person over the last decade in real dollars. The reports praise Wyoming's sensible tax policy that taxes consumption more than personal income or investment. The report's modeled policy scenarios included increases or decreases to the franchise tax, sales tax, severance tax, and an increase in exports. The economists also included a creation of a personal income tax, with the assumption that Wyoming's constitution changed to allow such a tax. The model showed that an effective increase in the sales tax of .5% (through removing exemptions) would result in the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs and a reduction of \$15 million to the state economy over the next two years.

ERC lead economist and report author Dr. Orphe Divounguy stated of the results,

"The Wyoming economy faces tough challenges due to the downturn in the energy market. Wyoming policymakers should consider tax reforms that encourage investment and growth. One of the best pro-growth policies would be the elimination of the franchise tax, which significantly affects investment. One of the worst policies would be the creation of a state income tax. A new income tax would cause even more severe problems for the Wyoming economy and would reduce state GDP and job creation."

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty,

free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

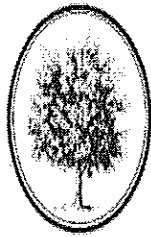
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 9:04 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: Financial Literacy for Millennials event Thursday, Feb. 23



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Valentine's Day was almost a week ago, and yet The Buckeye Institute is still all about sharing the love.

A fantastic organization that we work with from time to time--America's Future Foundation (commonly known as AFF)--is hosting a timely event featuring Buckeye's Board Vice Chairman and author Andrew O. Smith. Andrew will discuss his new book (*Financial Literacy for Millennials: A Practical Guide to Managing Your Financial Life for Teens, College Students, and Young Adults*) along with practical tips for getting your finances in order.

This event is geared to students, young professionals, and other millennials, but is open for everyone. A free introduction to financial literacy, plus drinks and snacks, and a chance to meet the author and ask your burning financial questions is hard to beat on a Thursday after work or school. Take it from us at The Buckeye Institute, Andrew O. Smith is a hit!



The Premier Nationwide Network of Liberty-minded Young Professional Leaders

Financial Literacy for Millennials

Where: The Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus

When: 6pm-7:30pm on Thursday, February 23

Cost: Free--including free drinks and hors d'oeuvres!

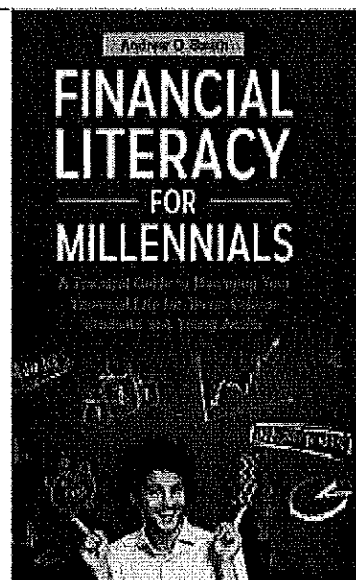
You are invited to join us for the relaunch of the Columbus chapter of America's Future Foundation! We are excited to bring together young professionals like you for networking, professional development, policy discussions, and dynamic events in Ohio's capital.

Join us as we hear from author Andrew O. Smith who'll discuss his newest book, *Financial Literacy for Millennials: A Practical Guide to Managing Your Financial Life for Teens, College Students, and Young Adults*. Smith will cover topics relevant to any young adult who is making independent financial decisions for the first time, including:

- * student loan debt
- * career planning
- * entrepreneurship
- * investments
- * avoiding financial fraud
- * saving for retirement, and more!

The book is a guide for you or anyone looking to gain a better grasp of how to make smart financial decisions.

Smith will discuss his book and participate in a Q&A session. RSVP by February 20th on AFF's Columbus chapter Facebook page or to esther@amerciasfuture.org.



Click Here to RSVP

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

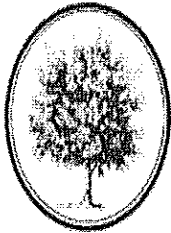
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:14 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: The Buckeye Institute's Fight For Military Families Becomes Ohio's Fight



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Rea S. Hederman Jr.
(614) 224-4422 or Rea@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Fight For Ohio's Military Spouses and Families Joined By Legislators

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Tuesday, Representatives Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) and Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) introduced legislation in Ohio's House based on The Buckeye Institute's idea to make it easier for the spouses of military personnel stationed in Ohio to receive an occupational license in their chosen profession.

Some of you may recall Buckeye's press release and policy brief back in November highlighting the difficulties and financial hardships experienced by military families as they move from place to place. In particular, military spouses often face significant barriers in trying to maintain an active license in their profession in each state.

As we mentioned in our brief, "The Institute for Veterans and Military Families revealed that 73 percent of military spouses with an occupational license require a renewal or reissuance of their license after being transferred to a new state."

Buckeye's report called on Ohio to recognize out-of-state licenses for military spouses. Today, we are pleased to announce that two Ohio legislators have answered that call.

Rep. Derek Merrin noted, "The Buckeye Institute is leading the way on occupational licensure reform. Buckeye's work has led to legislation that will expedite the licensure process for military members and their spouses."

Merrin and Gavarone's bill will grant full licenses to these individuals as long as the requirements for the license they held in another state are substantially similar to or more stringent than those of Ohio. For those individuals where the license they held in another state is not similar to Ohio standards, they can still obtain a "license by endorsement" and be allowed to act within their scope of practice for up to 12 months while they meet full Ohio license standards.

Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst with The Buckeye Institute said, "Families of those serving our nation deserve to be able to work in their chosen profession unencumbered by red tape as they move from state to state. This policy helps reduce this unfortunate burden for the families who are already sacrificing so much."

While Ohio still desperately needs to comprehensively reform its occupational licensing regime, any policy that makes it easier for Ohioans to work (and fights for military families at the same time!) is a step in the right direction--and we are very proud to be Buckeyes today.

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

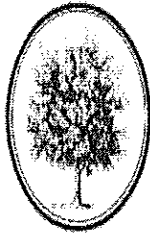
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:14 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: Postponed: Today's Lunchtime Seminar on Healthcare at Buckeye



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

Here at The Buckeye Institute, we believe in sharing ideas, not germs.

Accordingly, due to an unfortunate outbreak of strep in our office, we are postponing our lunchtime seminar on healthcare policy that was scheduled for noon today. How's that for irony?

Our goal is indeed to help solve the healthcare policy crisis, not create a new one.

We have already rescheduled, and hope you will be able to join us at noon on March 28th instead. Sorry for any inconvenience, but we trust you can appreciate our sparing you all this illness.

Chicken soup and throat lozenges can be sent to our office c/o the remaining unsick Buckeye staffers. And do stay hydrated out there!

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

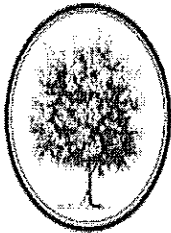
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 7:04 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: Hot-off-the-press study on Ohio's RPS shows devastating economic results



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., Economist
(614) 224-4422 or Orphe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Releases Brand Spanking New Study on RPS--And, Drumroll Please, It's a Doozy

COLUMBUS, OH--Early Friday morning, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center (ERC) released its timely new report, The Impact of Renewables Portfolio Standards on the Ohio Economy, which demonstrates the negative economic impact of Ohio's Renewables Portfolio Standards (RPS) on Ohio's economy.

The results of the RPS study are in: If Ohio keeps RPS, tremendous economic damage will follow in its wake long after current policymakers have left office. Accordingly, this study serves as fair warning of impending economic consequences if RPS are not fixed.

By requiring electricity providers to purchase renewable energy credits (RECs), costs continue to increase--causing Ohio businesses and families to pay more for their energy over the next decade. As a result, if RPS is not permanently frozen or repealed outright, the evidence shows that families will suffer from reduced discretionary spending, businesses will hire fewer workers, and Ohio's economic growth will be stunted.

If the renewables standards continue as shown in this new Economic Research Center study, Ohio's economy would suffer from 134,000 fewer job opportunities and the state's GDP will be reduced by \$15.5 billion within 10 years. "Ohio workers and families will bear the brunt of the cost for this economically-damaging energy policy, that is RPS," reports The Buckeye Institute's lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D. "The evidence is overwhelming and convincing: this RPS mandate leads to cost increases that are essentially a tax on productive economic activity. The longer the mandate stays in effect, the more harmful its economic impact will be--as our new study shows very clearly."

The Economic Research Center employed its state-of-the-art and peer-reviewed dynamic growth model of the Ohio economy to simulate the economic effects of the RPS under various policy scenarios. These policy scenarios illustrate what would happen if, for instance, the RPS are permanently frozen at 2016 levels or take full effect. The most positive public policy scenario for Ohio's economy is RPS repeal, which allows the market to determine prices instead of government mandates.

The Buckeye Institute uses publicly available government data, employs sound academic-style research that is peer reviewed, and discloses its assumptions in an effort to be transparent about its methodology. Its Economic Research Center's economic models and calculations have been used and cited extensively in multiple states and relied upon by policymakers since the ERC's inception.

Press and legislators may contact Dr. Divounguy directly (contact information above) after reviewing the study and its results to discuss further.

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

From: Greg Lawson
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:30 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I would like to request a meeting with Rep. Schuring to discuss several policy issues including broader occupational licensing reform.

Greg R. Lawson
Senior Policy Analyst

The Buckeye Institute
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

From: Rep48
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:11 PM
To: 'Greg Lawson'
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Greg,

I have added your request to Representative Schuring's meeting request list.

Best,

Abby

Abby Schafer
Senior Legislative Aide
Office of State Representative Kirk Schuring
Speaker Pro Tempore
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-752-2438

From: Greg Lawson [mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:30 AM
To: Rep48 <Rep48@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

I would like to request a meeting with Rep. Schuring to discuss several policy issues including broader occupational licensing reform.

Greg R. Lawson
Senior Policy Analyst

The Buckeye Institute
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

From: Greg Lawson
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:13 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Thank you.

Greg R. Lawson
Senior Policy Analyst

The Buckeye Institute
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 2:10 PM, Rep48@ohiohouse.gov <Rep48@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Greg,

I have added your request to Representative Schuring's meeting request list.

Best,

Abby

Abby Schafer

Senior Legislative Aide

Office of State Representative Kirk Schuring

Speaker Pro Tempore

77 South High Street, 14th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

614-752-2438

From: Greg Lawson [mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org]

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:30 AM

To: Rep48 <Rep48@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting Request

I would like to request a meeting with Rep. Schuring to discuss several policy issues including broader occupational licensing reform.

Greg R. Lawson

Senior Policy Analyst

The Buckeye Institute

88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

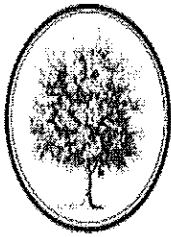
(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:34 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: Your Buckeye Institute won big at U.S. Supreme Court today--even if your bracket went down in flames



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Secures Tremendous Victory Against Obama Administration with U.S. Supreme Court Ruling Tuesday Morning--No Disrespect to March Madness

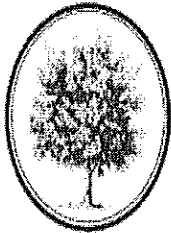
COLUMBUS, OHIO--Your Buckeye Institute enjoys college hoops as much as anyone else--and we're not even going to mention Ohio State's basketball team--but a much more important and lasting win happened today.

In late September, The Buckeye Institute filed a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to serve as a check on overreach committed by the Obama administration.

And this morning, for old times' sake, the U.S. Supreme Court gave a special final sendoff to President Obama's pen and phone.

In the Court's opinion Tuesday morning ruling in favor of the challenger (and yours truly), Chief Justice Roberts wrote for the majority, "The glitch in th[e government's] argument is of course the text of [the statute]."*

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: Buckeye is taking an axe to the feather duster fight in Washington



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2017

The Buckeye Institute is Leading Charge to Cut Stifling Regulations, Rollback Red Tape, and... Yes, Drain the Washington Swamp Using a Carefully Chosen Tool for the Job: the Congressional Review Act (CRA)

COLUMBUS, OH--On Friday morning, The Buckeye Institute announced its metaphorical use of the axe that is the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

The high temperatures in Columbus the next few days are expected to be in the low 70s. With the arrival of warmer weather brings a natural desire to do some spring cleaning, and your Buckeye Institute is well prepared for this dirty job. While the Washington establishment types are taking feather dusters in to do some light touching up and dust removal here and there, your Buckeye Institute is making use of a mighty axe (the CRA) to cut the devastating regulations hurting our citizens, our businesses, and our families in Ohio and states across this great nation.

In the moments before President Trump's Joint Address to Congress a few weeks back, the Wall Street Journal broke the news of Pacific Legal Foundation's project Red Tape Rollback.

Today, The Buckeye Institute is pleased to share our exciting role as a founding partner in this national effort to eliminate devastating regulations. Red Tape Rollback is a cooperative venture and the result of a partnership of several prominent national think tanks, policy organizations, and the oldest public interest law firm on the right to reduce regulations through the use of the CRA.

Former Congressman David McIntosh (now of The Club for Growth) and his old friend and Capitol Hill staffer Todd Gaziano (now of Pacific Legal Foundation) who wrote the Congressional Review Act were keen to employ this tactic to dismantle the foundation of the regulatory state. The Buckeye Institute has joined them in identifying regulations that are problematic in the states, for small businesses, and families, and we are leading the charge to eliminate them for good.

Why is the CRA so powerful? As explained on Red Tape Rollback:

- 1) Agencies are required to report agency rules, policy memoranda, guidance documents, dear colleague letters, etc. to Congress. Congress then has the option of disapproving these regulations within 60 days. Here is the kicker: there are thousands of these rules that went unreported during the Obama administration. Are you even surprised? What about the filibuster, you ask? **We don't need no stinkin' filibuster.** In fact, the CRA provides that the filibuster doesn't even apply to the review of these nasty regulations!
- 2) You say that Congress is a bunch of do-nothings who take feather dusters to do their deep spring cleaning? We can't argue with you there, but under the CRA, rules do not take effect until the reports are sent to Congress. So the Trump administration could indeed abandon these regulations without Congress.

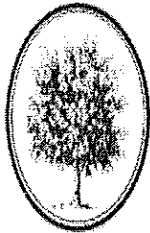
What can you do to assist this effort? Go to Red Tape Rollback. Find the regulation that has been harming your business or family, and check to see whether it was ever reported to Congress. If it was not, enter it on that same webpage so that we can add it to the list of regulations to repeal. If you'd rather not get your hands dirty, but prefer to help us do this spring cleaning, we can always use financial support. This effort is costly in terms of time, staff, and research, and we cannot do it without your help.

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:47 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: Reminder: Buckeye's lunchtime seminar on health care policy tomorrow at noon



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

Do you remember when we announced that a nasty bout of strep throat had gone.... wait for it... **viral**... among our staff and their progeny a few weeks ago? And, accordingly, we postponed our lunchtime seminar on health care policy to spare our guests the illness?

Well, we write to remind you that we are all healthy and ready to host the rescheduled seminar TOMORROW (Tuesday, March 28) as promised at noon. We hope you can join us for the timely talk on health care policy given by The Buckeye Institute's own Executive Vice President Rea S. Hederman Jr. His presentation is entitled, "Obamacare: What's next for the states in the new administration?"

Hederman's innovative work in health care policy has focused on how states can regain control of health care markets. Hederman has worked with national and state policy organizations as well as national and state legislators in promoting free-market ideas to reduce health care costs for individuals and the government, and is the co-author of the nationally-distributed "Returning Health Care Power to the States."

When: Buckeye's lunchtime seminars begin promptly at noon and end by 1:30 at the latest (often earlier).

Where: The Buckeye Institute's conference room on the 11th floor of the Key Bank building located on the corner of East Broad Street and 3rd downtown Columbus at 88 East Broad Street, which is directly across from the Statehouse/Capitol building. If you need help finding parking downtown, [click here](#).

Background: The Buckeye Institute's policy experts regularly share their insight and wisdom with Buckeye's staff and interns over lunch--just one of the many perks working at Buckeye affords. Last fall, we decided to try something experimental. We began offering our supporters the opportunity to attend these formerly staff-and-interns-only lunchtime seminars. We just asked that you let us know that you are coming (email Patrick@BuckeyeInstitute.org) so we can set out the right number of chairs, bring your own lunch, and show up on time so as not to interrupt the speaker.

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

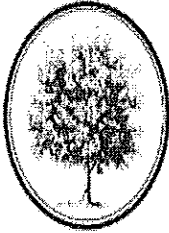
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:50 AM

To: Rep48

Subject: The piggies aren't little anymore--they're hogging the state budget



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2017

(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Releases Brand New Piglet Book and Calls on Legislators to Cut the Pork From State Budget

COLUMBUS, OHIO--What time is it? Ohio's biennial budget time. And what does that mean for all of us budget hawks, policy wonks, and pork haters? Today is the special day that happens only once every two years.

If you are fiscally prudent, if you love puppies and college football, if you have a place in your heart for America and her states, today is the day you have been waiting for: The Buckeye Institute has released its brand new updated-for-this-budget-cycle Piglet Book--ta da!

Ohio legislators, be advised, our report is chalk full of great ideas--and you can steal them *gratis*. We won't worry about copyright violations or whether you cite us as your source. Claim them as your own. Feel free to become the heroic spending slashers to put all former spending slashers to shame. We will cheer you on with every dollar removed from the budget. And best of all? You will sleep better and become morally richer knowing you did the right thing for the Buckeye state and its taxpayers. In fact, a colleague of yours, Ohio Senator Kris Jordan noted, "The Buckeye Institute's biennial Piglet Book is always a great

resource for policymakers looking to cut back on unnecessary and often wasteful spending. I take its recommendations seriously and urge my colleagues to do the same."

Shucks, I don't think we could have said it better ourselves.

The Buckeye Institute's appropriately-named report analyzes wasteful spending in Ohio's biennial budget proposals, and cites projects that unwisely waste taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. Some of these projects should be eliminated entirely and others make sense to be left for private businesses and philanthropic organizations to fund instead.

A state's budget should reflect the priorities of its citizens. Too often, special interests alter the budget in harmful ways with crony handouts and questionable projects. The more a government spends, the more taxes it has to collect, which hurt small businesses and families most.

The goal of each edition of our Piglet Book is ultimately to limit state spending to essential services and state priorities, and--by way of a first step--to identify and expose the worst of the worst. If Ohio simply contained the growth of its spending to 2-2.5 percent annually, it could save over \$3.7 billion. What would you do with that kind of cash? I think I'd literally go to Disney World. That's without cutting anything, just simply limiting the growth of spending. Imagine the savings from actually cutting some aspects of the budget. Of course, we still need to address the elephant in the room, what Governor Voinovich once called the "Pac-Man" of the state budget--Medicaid--if we want to get our house in order financially.

The author of the report, The Buckeye Institute's Senior Policy Analyst Greg R. Lawson said, "The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book details specific spending programs that should be cut or eliminated in order to keep our state's budget under control. Too much government spending, even on well-meaning projects, reduces our prosperity and hurts taxpayers where it counts."

###

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

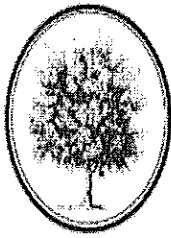
[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: The winner is.... Lisa Gates (Buckeye announces new VP of Comms)

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Names Lisa Gates as New VP of Communications

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute announced on Thursday that after more than 70 candidates applied for the position, Lisa A. Gates has been selected as Buckeye's new Vice President of Communications. Gates, an Ohio native, will oversee all of the Institute's communications and marketing efforts.

"We are pleased to have Lisa join our team and bring her tremendous experience back home to Ohio," said Robert Alt, President and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Lisa's expertise will help The Buckeye Institute promote sound free-market policies and solutions in Ohio and states across the country."

Gates has more than 20 years of experience in communications, media outreach, crisis communications, message development, public relations, marketing and branding.

Most recently, Gates served as Director of Communications at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit organization that supports democratic actors around the world as they build democratic institutions and accountable, transparent governments. While at IRI, Gates oversaw all communications, marketing and branding efforts for the Institute and its 60 plus programs worldwide and implemented a comprehensive communications strategy that helped the Institute establish a strong brand that is recognized as an expert in the field of democratic governance, women's empowerment, and youth leadership.

During her time at IRI, Gates also served as an election monitor and coordinated communications efforts for 21 international election observation missions in Afghanistan, Egypt, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nigeria, Somaliland, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

= A

Prior to joining IRI, Gates served as Public Affairs Officer and Director of the International Press Center for the Coalition Provisional Authority and the U.S. Mission in Baghdad, Iraq. In that role, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the International Press Center and served as a spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy and the Coalition Provisional Authority on women's issues and the Iraq Stock Exchange.

Gates previously served as spokesperson for then-Governor Jeb Bush of Florida. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Gates got her start in public affairs working in the communications office of then-Governor George V. Voinovich of Ohio.

#

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

= A

= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Policy Matters Ohio

Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 4:56 PM

To: Rep48

Subject: Cool new look, same hard-hitting research: News from Policy Matters

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



Fresh new look: If you've been on PolicyMattersOhio.com lately -- and we know you're visiting our site multiple times a day -- you've probably noticed some changes. Click around and let us know what you think! A big thank you to the Cleveland Foundation and the FORM group for funding and developing the new site.

Ohio in motion: We're driving our pro-transit agenda forward - and beginning to see results. Last week state lawmakers voted to provide \$33 million a year for new buses and infrastructure improvements for Ohio's 61 public transit agencies. That's a \$10 million increase over what Governor John Kasich proposed. But we have a long way to go - especially when many transit agencies could lose millions due to changes in the state sales tax base. We testified asking the state to make transit agencies whole. Meanwhile, Senator Michael Skindell introduced legislation to increase state funding for public transportation to \$25 million and up the use of federal flex funding for transit to \$50 million.

Do it for the kids: In his State of the State Address, Governor John Kasich emphasized the importance of education. But in an issue brief released last week,

State Policy Fellow Victoria Jackson explains how his proposed 2018-2019 budget cuts funding for two-thirds of Ohio's school districts, especially the ones struggling the most. Instead, the legislature should roll back tax cuts for the wealthiest and close some of our state's unnecessary tax loopholes.

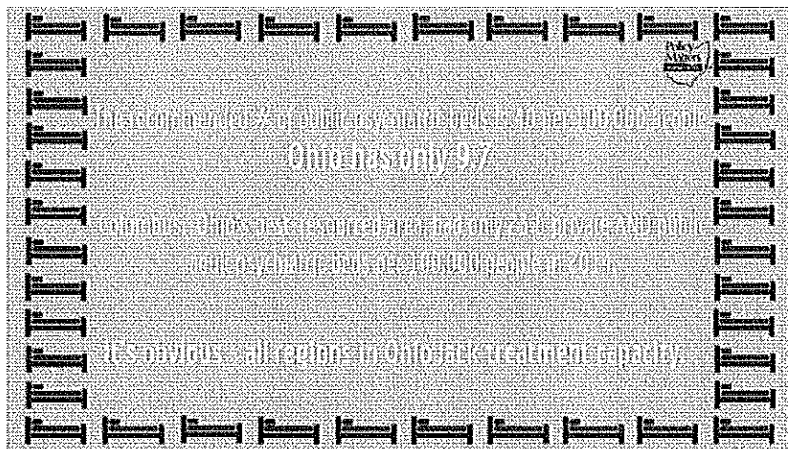
Budget Bites: Our latest Budget Bites deal with two of Ohio's most pressing issues: housing and the drug epidemic. The 2018-2019 budget falls short on both fronts.

The Ohio Housing Trust Fund



In 2015 more than 33,500 Ohioans were homeless and 400,000 spent more than half their income on rent, but Governor Kasich's 2018-2019 budget doesn't do enough to meet Ohio's housing needs.

Mental Health and Addiction



Governor Kasich is issued new restrictions on pain killers and is investing \$20 million into addiction research. These aren't bad ideas, but what we really need in the middle of a public health crisis is resources for treatment.

Speaking Up in April: Policy Matters is out in our communities in April, discussing and fighting for good policy. Amy Hanauer runs a discussion on resistance at Cleveland State's Women's Leadership Symposium on 4/12; leads a reading on the Cleveland Race Anthology at Happy Dog - Euclid Tavern on 4/18; and debates a Buckeye Institute researcher on social policy at Capital University on 4/26; Daniel Ortiz speaks to Cleveland's Neighborhood Leadership Institute on 4/20; and talks transit at Services for Independent Living on 4/28; Victoria Jackson reviews education findings on America's Workforce Radio on 4/13; Our Columbus office will be out in force - Hannah Halbert, Wendy Patton and Kalitha Williams - for an Advocates for Ohio's Future webinar on work supports on 4/18; and Zach Schiller teams up with Hannah to tackle unemployment compensation (and how to save it) in a 4/19 webinar. And those are just the public events! C'mon out and see us, or invite us if you want to learn more.

[Read this e-news online](#)



Policy Matters Ohio, Columbus, 43215, Cleveland, OH 44114

[SafeUnsubscribe™ Rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by news@policymattersohio.org in collaboration with



Try it free today

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:37 PM

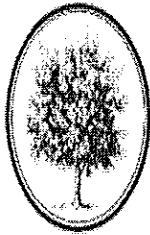
To: Rep48

Subject: May 3 event: criminal justice reform all stars including former OSU running back Maurice Clarett

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

= A



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK**



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SMART JUSTICE

THE ALL-STAR SERIES

You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus
on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend
changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these
days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a
serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal
justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

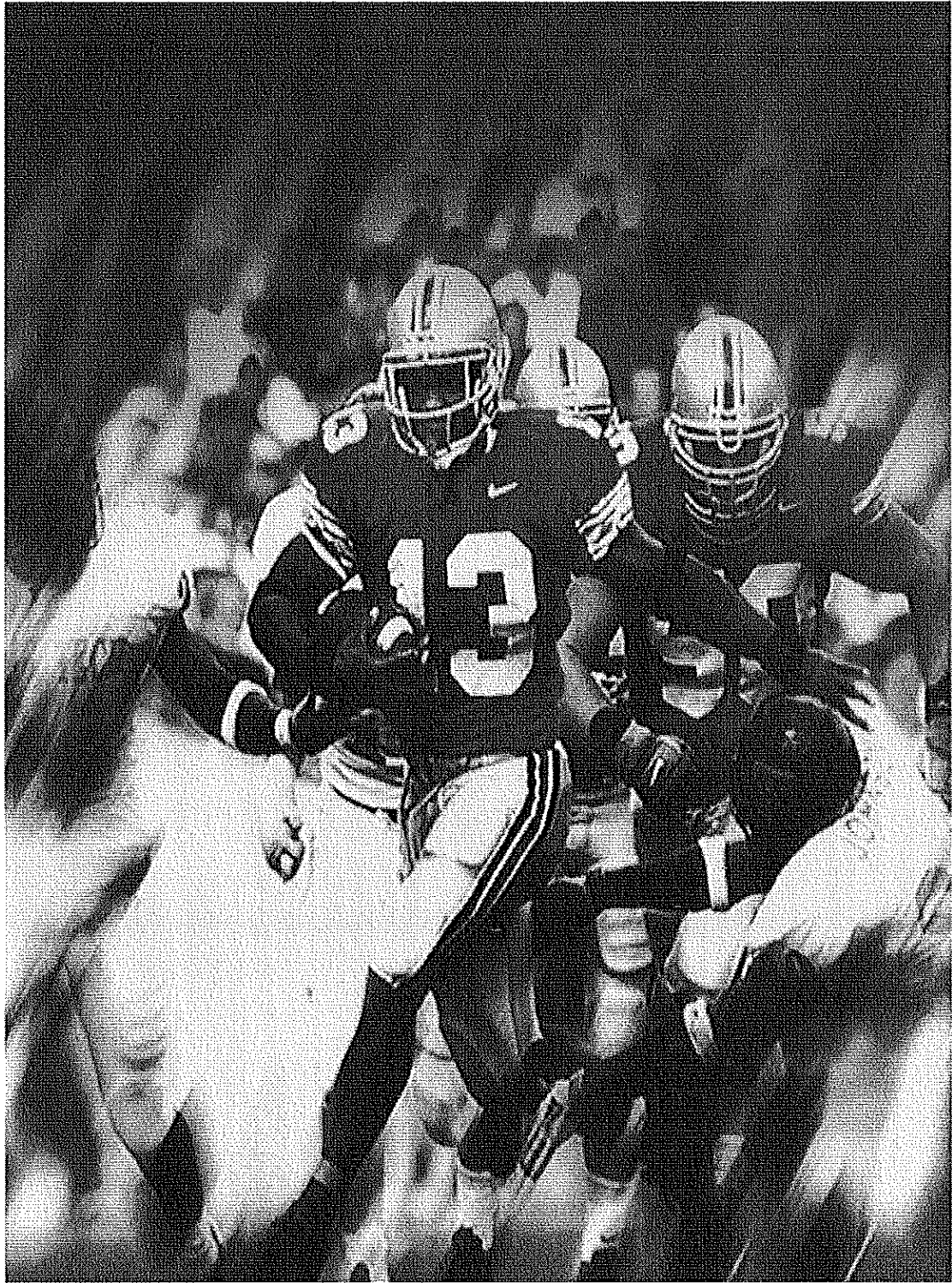
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3

5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE



###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

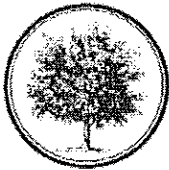
[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 7:35 AM
To: Rep48
Subject: The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget

Columbus, OH - As state lawmakers work to cut \$800 million from Ohio's budget, The Buckeye Institute today rolled out a series of recommendations policymakers could look at to save taxpayer dollars and trim the needed money. The recommendations are a part of Buckeye's 2017 Piglet Book, which was released in March, and if implemented, could save taxpayers more than \$1 billion, a more realistic target than \$800 million, given recent revenue shortfalls.

"The reality is, Office of Budget and Management revenue estimates have been too optimistic and policymakers need to cut \$1 billion from the proposed state budget. Cutting \$1 billion will offset additional spending and revenue shortfalls, which we should anticipate," said Robert Alt, President and Chief Executive Officer at The Buckeye

Institute. "The good news is, Buckeye has a blueprint - our Piglet Book - that can guide the legislature as it looks for needed cuts."

Recommendation #1

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Arts Council: Savings to Taxpayers: \$25.9 Million

The Ohio Arts Council receives taxpayer monies through income and sales tax revenue, which is then distributed to specifically-selected artists and galleries. While the work on the Arts Council has value, the government should not be an arbiter of culture. Artistic and cultural endeavors can and should be underwritten by donors giving voluntarily rather than by government fiat.

Recommendation #2

Slow the Rate of Growth in Education Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$208.7 Million

In FY16, Ohio spent \$10.5 billion funding the Department of Education. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$11.2 billion in FY18 and \$11.4 billion in FY19 for a total of \$22.6 billion. By slowing the rate of growth in education funding, Ohioans could save \$208.7 million.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$11.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$527.4 million over FY16) and \$11.3 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$748.9 million).

"A quality education is about far more than simply throwing more money at the education bureaucracy," said Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute. Simply slowing spending growth and shifting funding towards students rather than the 'system' can yield not only taxpayer savings, but--more importantly--better educational outcomes for our students. It is time to start moving in this direction."

Recommendation #3

Eliminate Funding to the Ohioana Library Association: Savings to Taxpayers: \$595,228

While not a huge cost savings when compared to the budget killers of Medicaid and education funding, eliminating funding to private organizations, such as Ohioana Library adds up to real cost savings.

The Ohioana Library Association's work, while laudable, is not a core government service that requires taxpayer subsidies. As with the Ohio Arts Council, private individuals and the private sector should guide investment for this work.

Recommendation #4

Slow the Rate of Growth in Medicaid Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$1.6 Billion

More than two decades ago then-Governor George Voinovich called Medicaid the Pac-Man of Ohio's budget. It remains so today, eating up more than 47 percent of Ohio tax dollars.

In FY16, Ohio spent \$22.8 billion funding the Department of Medicaid. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$25 billion in FY18 and \$25.7 billion in FY19 for a total of \$50.7 billion. By slowing the rate of growth, Ohioans could save \$1.6 billion.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$24.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$1.4 billion over FY16) and \$24.9 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$2.1 billion).

"When Governor Kasich released his proposed budget, I previously said of Medicaid funding, 'Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will gobble up an increasing amount of state resources and crowd out other essential investments and priorities,'" said Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at The Buckeye Institute. "Revenue shortfalls have exacerbated that situation. It is time for Ohio to get serious about controlling Medicaid spending and implementing innovative proposals, such as using 1332 waivers to gain greater flexibility under Obamacare."

Recommendation #5

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Grape Industries: Savings to Taxpayers: \$2.4 Million
Ohioans pay to market Ohio wines through a five-cent tax on each bottle of wine, something wine producers should pay for themselves.

Taxpayers should not be expected to pay for corporate welfare of any kind, and the government should not favor one business or industry over another. If a company or industry makes a good product, people will buy it. The use of taxpayer money to support favored businesses is both ethically inappropriate and economically harmful.

These recommendations, along with others found in the 2017 Piglet Book, would save Ohio taxpayers \$3.8 billion, more than quadruple the needed \$800 million for which Governor Kasich and leaders in the Ohio House and Senate have called.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



= A

= A

= A

= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 8:08 AM

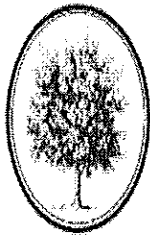
To: Rep48

Subject: REMINDER MAY 3 EVENT: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

= A



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK**



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SMART JUSTICE

THE ALL-STAR SERIES

You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus
on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend
changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these
days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a
serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal
justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

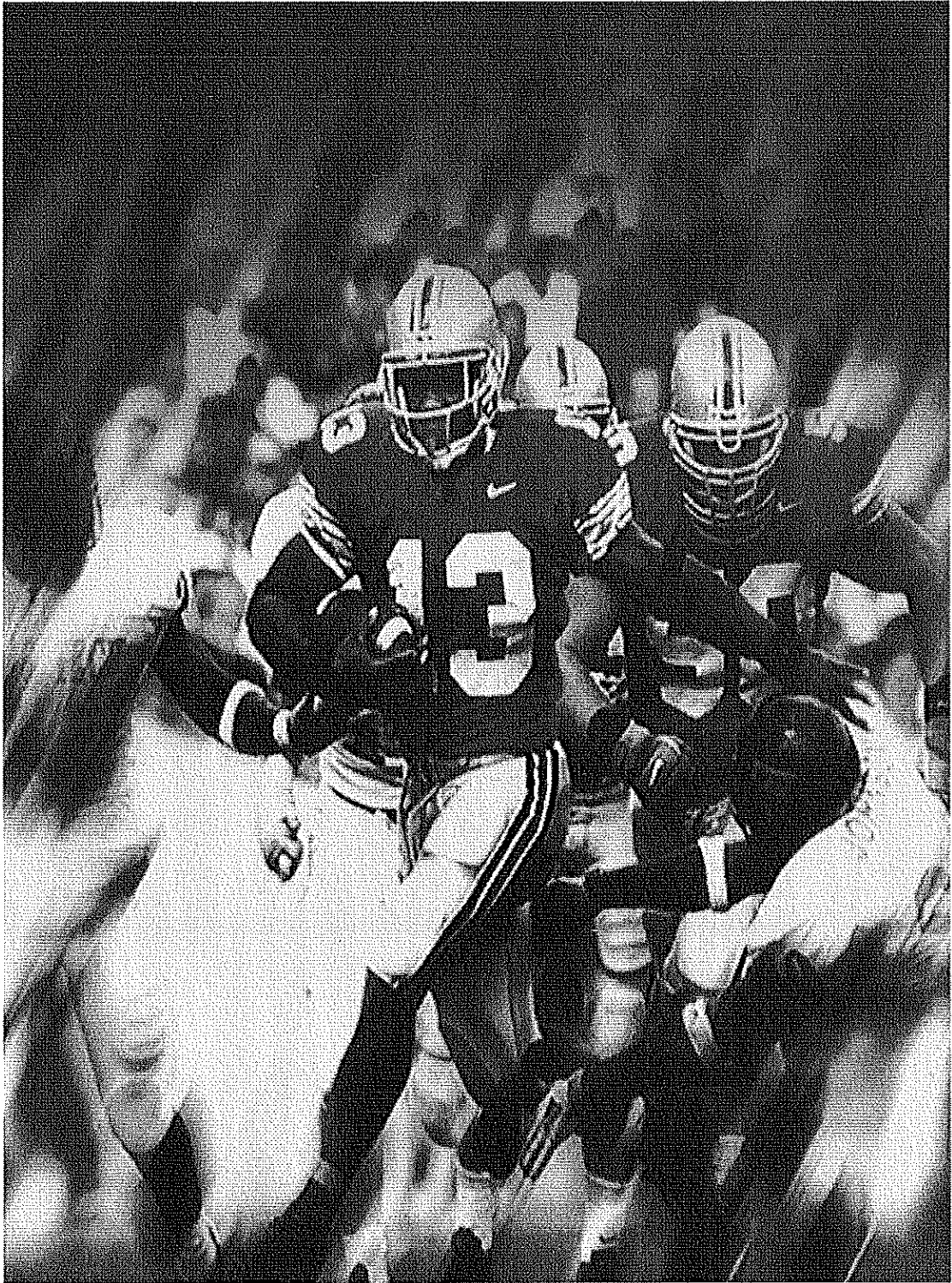
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3

5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE



###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rep48@ohiohouse.gov](#)

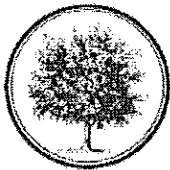
[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 4:36 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform

By **Greg R. Lawson**

April 28, 2017

On April 25, the **Ohio House Finance Committee** unveiled its first round of amendments ([download PDF](#)) to the Governor's proposed biennial operating budget, House Bill 49. Even with a few bright spots, the House's first attempt is not nearly as bold as the 2015 budget, it does not make the necessary spending cuts that leadership recently acknowledged, and it will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform.

Overview

First, the good news. House Bill 49 rightly eliminates most-but not all-of the "tax shifting" that permeated the Governor's proposal. The bill also retains the basic contours of the Governor's school funding proposal, including better mechanisms for allowing state money to follow the student. The House also re-asserts the General Assembly's control over federal dollars by reining in Ohio's Controlling Board. And finally, the

House largely adopts the Governor's proposed criminal justice reforms that will keep low-level, non-violent offenders from state prisons.

Now, the bad news. The Governor and legislative leadership recently warned that Ohio needed to reduce spending by roughly \$800 million. The spending cuts in House Bill 49 fall well short of that mark. Much of the proposal's \$2.5 billion of "savings" can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand, and such "on paper savings" don't amount to significant real savings.

The House budget, for example, does little to give the state a better grip on Medicaid spending-the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget-and the last biennial budget offered better Medicaid reforms than this one. Thus, the House misses an opportunity to make the kind of meaningful spending cuts that will make it easier for Ohio to pursue fundamental tax reforms.

The Governor's proposal begins to reform Ohio's arcane municipal income tax structure-the House guts that proposal, and then litters the budget with a trail of dubious licensing fee increases. The last House budget recognized Ohio's urgent need to reform her labor laws in order to compete with her reform-minded neighbors-but not this budget. No real tax or labor reforms here, just more opportunities missed.

Fortunately, the current House Bill 49 is not the final word on the matter. The House plans to move the budget next week, leaving a limited-but possible-opportunity for cooler heads to prevail and better policies to be included. With such hope in mind, a fuller analysis of key features of House Bill 49 follows.

The Buckeye Institute urges members of the House to continue look for additional savings-did we mention our Piglet Book?-and to embrace far more robust Medicaid and labor reforms.

Eliminates Most Tax Shifting

We generally support tax proposals designed to move Ohio from an income-tax structure to more of a consumption-tax state. But we have long-standing concerns about making that shift too quickly. In our view, any sound, structural tax reform must first be preceded by lower government spending to help resist the inevitable temptation to balance the budget and pay for tax reform by increasing taxes.

We therefore commend the House for eliminating much of the "tax shifting" that effectively allows the government to pick "winners" and "losers" in the market. The

House budget, for example, does not include a new tax on vapor, or a severance tax hike, or a tobacco tax increase. Well done. The House also eliminated the Governor's plan to expand the sales tax to include most services-with the unfortunate exception of extending the state sales tax to online travel agencies.

Municipal Income Tax Reform

One of the Governor's better ideas in the FY 2018-2019 budget proposed moving to centralize the tax collection process for businesses across the state. Ohio's municipal income tax structure is among the nation's worst and most burdensome-and, as we have argued repeatedly, simplifying this byzantine system is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the House's substitute budget eviscerates the Governor's reform and then proceeds to charge taxpayers for trying to file a single state tax form-essentially taxing the taxpayer as he attempts to pay his taxes. Insult, meet injury.

We suggest either returning to the Governor's proposal or centralizing tax collections in a single location without levying any additional administrative fees for filing taxes.

Budget "Savings" and Spending Restraint

House Bill 49 purports to cut an additional \$2.5 billion from the Governor's proposal over the next two years, with nearly \$923 million of those "savings" coming from reductions in the General Revenue Fund. Thus, the House budget appears to remain in stride with inflation.

Many of the so-called spending cuts, however, may be more illusory than they at first appear. The House budget claims to save more than \$1 billion from Medicaid, for example, but it remains unclear whether these are real savings or merely deft accounting tricks.

Similarly, \$944 million of the \$2.5 billion "savings" are attributed to reducing the amount the state spends as fiduciary for collecting municipal income net profits taxes. House Bill 49 does reduce the overall appropriations for this function, but this hardly qualifies as "state spending" when these are local tax dollars that the state simply collects and then redistributes to the appropriate localities.

To be sure, the House budget does take some laudable steps forward to restrain spending. The House froze, for instance, the **State Share of Instruction**, which subsidizes Ohio Institutions of Higher Learning; and eliminated unnecessary subsidies for the Ohioana Library Association. Such subsidies give public institutions less

incentive to economize, reduce costs, increase quality, and otherwise behave like rational actors in a free marketplace.

The House also curtailed the Controlling Board's unilateral authority to use more than \$10 million of unexpected federal funds. This reform empowers the General Assembly- and not the Controlling Board-when deciding which federal programs Ohio should join. Had this measure been in place several years ago, Ohio most likely would not have participated in the disastrous Medicaid expansion that was joined against the will of the General Assembly.

We remain encouraged by the House's tribute to fiscal restraint, but earmarks continue to burrow their way into the budget and more cost-cutting is needed in order to bring state spending down to responsible, sustainable levels. See our **Piglet Book** for more examples of how Columbus can trim the fat.

Criminal Justice Reform

We applaud the House for affirming the Governor's proposal to rehabilitate low-level offenders locally rather than in state-run facilities. More than 95 percent of those who go to prison return to our communities. Low-level offenders who serve time in state prisons often return even more hardened and more dangerous than when they began their sentence.

= A

Ohio must pursue policies that protect communities while keeping as many low-level offenders out of prison as safely possible. As we have **explained**, community treatment is twice as effective at one-third the cost, making our communities safer and saving taxpayer money in the long run.

The Governor's budget would require non-violent, non-sex offenders to be rehabilitated locally, and authorize the **Department of Rehabilitation and Correction** to grant counties money to offset the added costs of rehabilitation. State judges participating in a pilot rehabilitation program support the Governor's proposal, while the Ohio Judicial Conference and Prosecuting Attorneys Association have opposed the measure. House Bill 49 struck a compromise that will allow counties to send up to 15 percent of their non-violent, non-sex offenders to prison-a compromise that we believe will save money and make our communities safer.

= A

Education Reform

House Bill 49 rightly embraces the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal. That proposal begins unwinding the inherent problems of "caps" and "guarantees" that distort the accuracy of the Foundation Funding Formula (the designated amount spent on each public school student from the General Revenue Fund and lottery profits). "Guarantees" allow districts with declining enrollment to maintain previous funding levels despite serving fewer students, and "caps" prevent districts with growing enrollment levels from receiving the formula's full amount.

Although we applaud the House's effort here, we wish that it was not exceeding the Governor's already respectable Foundation Funding by expanding "racino" gambling that may expose the state to expensive litigation. Two cheers for education reform!

Medicaid Reform

We remain cautiously optimistic-or perhaps hopefully skeptical-that the House's Medicaid spending cuts will actually materialize. House Bill 49 allows Mr. Kasich's Administration to seek a waiver from Washington to add several requirements-including work requirements-to the state's expanded Medicaid population. This is a reasonable, but insufficient first step toward reversing Ohio's Medicaid expansion, and the bill's loose language is riddled with loopholes that threaten to render the reforms ineffective. Compounding our skepticism, the House failed to include the last budget's *Healthy Ohio* waiver that the Obama Administration denied.

Ohio policymakers should be taking full advantage of the current climate in Washington and pushing for innovative Medicaid "1332 waivers" to alleviate some of the onerous burdens of Medicaid by helping people get out of the program. For the first time in years, the federal government wants to increase state flexibility in Medicaid programs, and House Bill 49 fails to take advantage of a golden opportunity to pursue bolder reforms that will pare back Medicaid. Again-opportunity averted.

Health Care Transparency Reform

House Bill 49 regrettably waters-down some positive reforms designed to make health care more transparent. Though not a cure for rising health care costs, transparency and patient access to more information can help the market and consumer preferences drive down costs. Another opportunity needlessly wasted.

Licensing Reform

As we have argued, Ohio must address her burdensome occupational licensing scheme. By consolidating several licensing boards and commissions, Governor Kasich and House Bill 49 have taken baby-steps toward helping workers achieve their full